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Soviet citizens living in Vilnius protest outside the central library against Lithuanian split from the Soviet Union. (Reuters wirephoto)

Moscow vows not to punish deserters

MOSCOW, March 28, (Agencies): The Soviet Union kept pressure on Lithuania to back down on its self-proclaimed independence, but pledged today not to punish army deserters seized in dawn raids this week.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis sent Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev a protest note yesterday, demanding the return of 12 arrested soldiers, saying they had been "kidnapped in an act of aggression against the people of Lithuania."

But Mecs Laurinkus, chairman of a Lithuanian Parliamentary Commission, announced during a television programme early today that the recruits seized from hospitals would merely return to their units and continue their service.

"Laurinkus said he had been told the deserters will not be punished," a journalist at Lithuanian radio told Reuters by telephone from the capital, Vilnius.

"They will go back to their units and stay either until they finish their term or until completion of negotiations between Moscow and Vilnius," he said.

The Soviet Defence Ministry today accused Lithuanians of waging a propaganda campaign against the army, which had moved in the day before to seize deserters in the breakaway republic.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said Lithuanian nationalists were trying to discredit the army by saying it was increasing the size of its Lithuanian force.

"Its organisers have revised it in order to support illegal, anti-constitutional activities of the Lithuanian government focused on the republic's secession from the USSR," the military statement said.

The statement, published in national newspapers today, accused the government of giving Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet army passports and sheltering them from Soviet authorities since the republic declared its independence from Moscow on March 11.

"The republic's Interior Ministry organs refuse to take steps to detain them and bring them back to their army units," the statement said.

It also said the deserters were being registered in "defence units" that it said are now being formed in defiance of a decree issued last week by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

On Tuesday, Red Army soldiers entered two Lithuanian hospitals to drag away deserters who had taken refuge there. Also yesterday the army occupied the Vilnius office of the Communist Party, which broke with the Moscow-based party last year.

Gen. Valentin Varennikov, commander of Soviet land forces in Lithuania, said 23 deserters had been seized. He contended they had become "militants" in the nationalist movement and were "undergoing special training" at one of the hospitals.

Meanwhile, Soviet authorities closed Lithuania to foreign journalists, diplomats and businessmen as the standoff with the breakaway republic centred a new, more volatile stage.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gerasimov said yesterday that all foreigners were being asked to leave Lithuania and temporarily refrain from entering its territory.

Diplomats already had been banned from the republic late last week, and journalists outside Lithuania were told they could not travel here.

Colombo cabinet dissolved; PM quits

COLOMBO, March 28, (Agencies): President Ranasinghe Premadasa dissolved the cabinet today as a prelude to appointing a new council of ministers, a senior government official said.

Cabinet spokesman Ranjan Wijeratne said Prime Minister Dingiri Wijetunga resigned earlier in the day, clearing the way for Premadasa's action.

Wijeratne, who held the posts of foreign minister and deputy defence minister, said Premadasa would name a new prime minister and cabinet tomorrow.

Wijetunga, who took office March 3, 1989, gave no explanation for his resignation.

When he was appointed, the president had said the term would be a one-year period, the dissolution of cabinet was effective 12 noon (0630 GMT) today, Wijeratne said.

The dissolved cabinet, which had been appointed after Premadasa's United National Party won the parliamentary election, had 21 ministers and 50 deputy ministers.

The Sri Lankan constitution provides the prime minister with a rubberstamp office and gives all executive powers to the president. The president is the head of state and government and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

The dissolution of the cabinet gives Premadasa an opportunity to remove critics within his own party from the cabinet.

During his first year in office Premadasa persuaded India to withdraw its peacekeeping troops.

He also has forged a fragile pact with Tamil guerrillas in the north and successfully contained an ultranationalist Sinhalese uprising in the south and the centre of the island.

Wijeratne, speaking to reporters, said Premadasa told a cabinet meeting yesterday morning that he intended to realign his ministerial portfolios.

The press office at Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, said two people were arrested at Heathrow and are being held at a London police station for questioning.

UK detains two Iraqis

LONDON, March 28, (AP): Customs agents arrested three people, including two Iraqis, at Heathrow airport today for attempted arms smuggling, an official source said.

The source, speaking on condition of strict anonymity, told the Associated Press that "a number of other people" were also picked up in southeast England in connection with the case.

Asked about unconfirmed reports that the arms involved included devices for triggering nuclear weapons, the source said, "I think that's very close."

The press office at Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, said two people were arrested at Heathrow and are being held at a London police station for questioning.

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Pull out of Lebanon, Soviets tell Israelis

American missionary killed

MOSCOW, March 28, (Agencies): The Soviet Union has demanded an end to Israeli interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and Israeli troop withdrawal from that Arab country, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said at a briefing today.

"The Soviet Union considers the Israeli occupation of South

Lebanon as a gross violation of international law and the known United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Soviet Union believes that any projects to plunder Lebanon's national resources are unlawful," Gerasimov was quoted by Tass as saying.

"Such actions are unlawful and inadmissible," he stressed.

Bomb blasts in Beirut

BEIRUT, March 28, (Agencies): A car bomb exploded near a base controlled by maverick Gen. Michel Aoun's army in the Christian enclave yesterday, wounding three soldiers, Aoun's television station reported.

The report was broadcast as Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen under rival Christian leader Samir Geagea duelled with artillery and tank fire in mountains northeast of Beirut, killing two people and wounding four.

The television report said the car packed with 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of explosives detonated before sunset on the road to the Roumieh barracks, base of Aoun's crack 8th Brigade.

The station gave no further details and police said they had no information on the explosion.

Another bomb exploded under a car parked near a mosque in West Beirut's Comodore district at 8:30 pm (1850 GMT), wrecking two automobiles but causing no casualties, police said.

No group claimed responsibility for either bombing.

Police said the artillery



Christian children stand near a burned tank's tower in battered East Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

exchanges flared in the highlands of Kesrouan province, 20 miles (32 kilometres) northeast of Beirut.

Ethnic violence

2 killed in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, March 28, (AP): Gunmen killed two more people yesterday, prompting authorities to impose an indefinite curfew in this southern city and order security forces to shoot violators, police said.

At least 20 people have died since Saturday in the latest round of ethnic violence in troubled Sindh province, police said.

Marauding gunmen opened fire yesterday, killing two people and injuring more than a dozen others, police said. Local authorities clamped the curfew at 5:30 pm (1230 GMT) and issued shoot-on-sight orders to police and army personnel patrolling this city of 700,000.

Since 1985, more than 800 people have been killed in ethnic violence in Hyderabad and the port city of Karachi, about 100 (160 kilometres) to the south.

The main combatants are Sindhi nationalists, who want greater autonomy or independence for the southern province, and the Mohajir Qami Movement representing Indian immigrants to Pakistan following the partition in 1947.

Police have refused to say who was involved in the latest shootings or to which group the victims belonged.

Pakistan fails to launch ship

KARACHI, March 28, (Reuters): Prayers, rosewater and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were not enough to get the You Yi-20 into the water yesterday.

With champagne banned in Islamic Pakistan, Benazir smashed a bottle of rosewater over the bow of the 17,300-tonne vessel and declared: "I hereby launch and name the ship You Yi-20."

As a local clergyman led prayers for the ship's good fortune... nothing happened. The bulk carrier built for China stubbornly refused to move.

The Soviet Union has cut the number of its diplomats in Beirut after threats by a Muslim group to attack countries involved in the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, diplomatic sources said.

They said the Soviet mission had sent home some of its diplomats and their families and had asked remaining staff to minimise their movements.

Meanwhile, France has halted a two-month peace drive in Lebanon where it failed to end an inter-Christian war, political sources said today.

They said French Ambassador Rene Ala has informed Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, Lebanon's senior Christian spiritual leader, that France was stopping its efforts.

The halt of French efforts heightened fears of renewed all-out war in Lebanon's Christian enclave between troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen.

An American Christian missionary was shot dead in his home in the Israeli-controlled part of South Lebanon and a leftist Lebanese group said today one of its units had killed him.

Security sources said William Robinson, a 56-year-old former US marine from Chicago, was killed last night by three masked Arabic-speaking gunmen armed with Kalashnikov rifles at the village of Rashaya Al Foukhar.

In Jerusalem, Bill Wolford, administrator of the international Christian embassy, said Robinson was shot as his family prayed with 20 handicapped children they looked after.

"They were having a time of worship. Three men broke in, tied them up and shot him front of everyone," Wolford told Reuters after speaking to Robinson's wife Barbara.

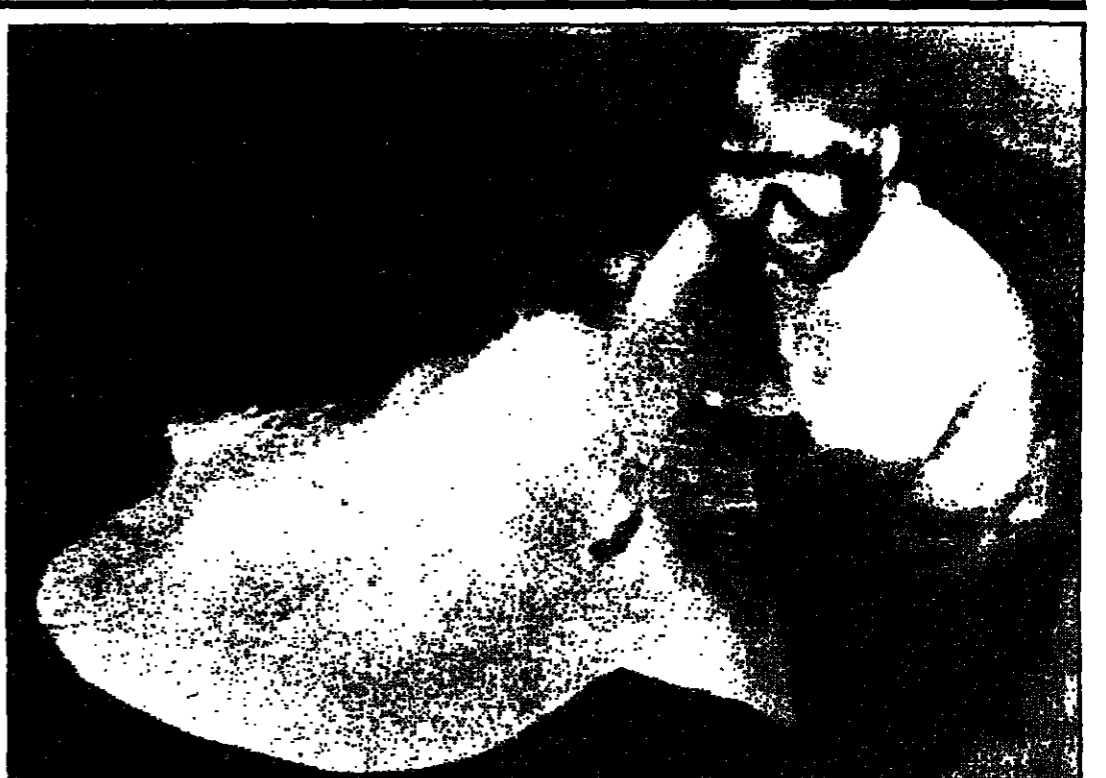
Security sources in Lebanon said the gunmen had separated Robinson from his wife and four sons. One son found him in a bathroom of their home shot once in the neck and twice in the back, they said.

In Beirut, the pro-Syrian leftist Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility in a message relayed by telephone.

"One of our units last night carried out the death sentence against William Robinson who was working to set up Israeli settlements on Lebanese soil to settle Jews there," it said.

The Front groups leftist parties including the Lebanese Communist Party, the Syrian National Social Party (SNSP) and the Lebanese wing of the Syrian Baath Party.

Robinson had worked as an evangelical missionary in Lebanon since 1983, remaining despite US legislation banning American citizens from the country because of hostage-taking by Iranian-backed extremists.



Rare ray shark

Mainly Oceanarium staff member Ian Gordon looks at 'Noel' a rare Ray shark on Tuesday which was caught north of Sydney recently. (Reuters wirephoto)

Massive hunt in Srinagar 12 militants escape

SRINAGAR, India, March 28, (Agencies): Twelve militants opposing Indian rule in Kashmir have escaped from a maximum security jail, police said today.

A security check at midnight revealed only an empty cell, prompting a massive hunt through Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

There were immediate suspicions that the 12, all kept in one cell of Srinagar central jail, might have had inside help to get out of the heavily guarded prison.

Police said most of the militants were members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the leading groups fighting either for an independent Kashmir or to join Muslim Pakistan.

All were held under tough anti-terrorist legislation that allows detention without trial for up to two years.

More than 200 people have been killed in Kashmir since mid-January when long-simmering resentment against Indian rule burst into violence.

Most of the deaths have been in the Kashmir valley, where the secessionist groups have their greatest support. The valley's main towns have been under almost constant curfew since the anti-Indian campaign erupted.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on Hindu-majority Jammu yesterday and troops were brought in to patrol the streets after six people were injured in fights between the two groups sparked by the alleged defilement of a Hindu temple.

The Indian government says about 25,000 families have fled the violence in the Kashmir



Delhi police try to restrain supporters of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party demonstrating in New Delhi yesterday against what they call the 'black budget', which put up petrol prices and sparked fears of more inflation. About 5,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

valley, most of them Hindus who went to Jammu despite militant assurances that their targets were picked on political, not sectarian grounds.

Three people were killed in the Kashmir valley yesterday, two of them Hindus accused of being police informers.

Tension had been rising in Jammu with the influx of refugees and repeated demonstrations against Muslim demands to be free of Indian rule.

Meanwhile, Hindus, enraged by the sight of a calf's head, fought Muslims with knives, iron rods and rocks yesterday, prompting the government to call out the army and impose a curfew, police and news reports said.

At least nine people were injured in the clash, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Hindus consider cows sacred, and unlike Muslims, do not eat beef.

Police said a round-the-clock curfew would remain in effect for a second day after a young Muslim injured in the Jammu fighting died in hospital early today and a Sikh temple was attacked in the middle of the night.

They said the attack, which caused only minor damage, was seen as an attempt to draw Sikhs into the conflict.

Also today, the first signs emerged of dissension between the 30 or so groups fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Afghan rebel rockets kill 27, Soviet plane crashes in Kabul

KABUL, March 27, (Agencies): At least 27 people were killed and 22 injured yesterday when guerrillas fighting Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government fired rockets into the capital, Kabul.

Witnesses also said a missile hit a Soviet Ilyushin-76 air transport bringing supplies to Kabul as it was about to land. The aircraft crashed in nearby mountains and burst into flames.

Soldiers cordoned off the crash site. All 10 members of the crew were believed killed.

Official Kabul Radio said 27 people were

killed in four separate rocket attacks on the city. It was the first day of the fasting month of Ramadan and the streets were more crowded than usual.

Most of the victims were in a van which was hit by one of the four US-made surface-to-surface missiles fired from the Paghman area west of Kabul, the broadcast said.

A second rocket scattered shrapnel in the central market, injuring at least three people. Large pools of blood remained in the street after the wounded were taken away.

Kabul radio blamed the attack on "criminal

extremists", a term used for Pakistan-based Western-backed rebels who have also attacked several cities in the south in what the government fears could be the start of a new offensive.

It was not clear if the Soviet plane was hit during the rocket attack. Some Kabul airport officials denied that it was shot down and said it had a mechanical failure.

It was the first Soviet aircraft to crash in Afghanistan since Soviet troops left in February 1989, ending a 10-year occupation. Moscow has continued to send aid to Kabul and the Soviet news agency Tass said the aircraft was carrying

non-military supplies.

Tuesday's missile onslaught was the most devastating since a failed coup attempt against President Najibullah on March 6 led by Defence Minister Shahmawaz Tanai.

Acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Naqib said in Kabul that government troops killed 39 rebels in fierce fighting around the besieged eastern garrison town of Khost on Saturday.

In Pakistan, guerrilla sources said gunmen killed an exiled Afghan exile political worker in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar.

Philippine rebels launch offensive

Nestle executive killed

MANILA, March 28, (Agencies): Communist guerrillas have launched a series of attacks in the Philippines to mark the 21st anniversary of the founding of their rebel army, hitting military and police units and killing a Nestle executive.

At least 25 people have died in the past week including the Filipino senior vice-president of Nestle Philippines Inc, in an apparently co-ordinated offensive, police said today.

Police and the para-military Philippine Constabulary were on full alert ahead of tomorrow's anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army (NPA), launched on March 29, 1969 to spearhead an intended communist takeover in the country.

President Corason Aquino has promised to neutralise the NPA by the end of her term in 1992 and has refused talks with the communists unless they give up violence.

Four gunmen shot dead Nestle executive Froilan Pablo as he watched a company-sponsored tennis match in the Manila suburb of Cabuyao on Monday evening.

The gunmen escaped after threatening to shoot into the horrified crowd, police said.

"It was a professionally executed hit," a spokesman for the Swiss-based multinational said today. He said it could be linked to a protracted labour dispute at Nestle, and Pablo had previously received a series of death threats.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, head of the Manila Constabulary Command, said military intelligence had anticipated the rebel offensive in the capital and other parts of the Philippines, and put anti-terrorist squads on alert.

In the latest incident, a soldier and a communist rebel were killed in a Manila street gunbattle today when a military patrol accosted seven youths painting "long live NPA" slogans on Manila walls.

The youths threw a home-made bomb at the patrol and shot dead one of the soldiers.

Police said the patrol killed one of the gunmen after a chase through city streets. The slain gunman bore a tattoo of a red star on his ankle, police said.

In the most serious attack, two soldiers and 12 militiamen were killed when NPA guerrillas hit an army station in the southern province on Davao last Saturday, according to the military.

Two guerrillas died in the attack. There have been other attacks around Manila and in the southern island of Mindanao.

The Philippine military says it has turned the tide against the NPA, which has now lost the ideological initiative because of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

The NPA, building on deep divisions in the Philippines between rich and poor, grew in strength from a few dozen men in 1969 to 25,000 in mid-1988, according to military intelligence estimates.

The NPA still hopes to seize power in the Philippines in the next 10 years, but the military says it has cut the number of guerrillas to 19,000 and is rolling back the number of villages in the countryside under NPA influence.

The military chief of staff on today ordered two generals and 19 other officers to stand trial in connection with a failed coup against Aquino.

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Punjab Akali Party MPs to quit

NEW DELHI, March 28, (Reuters): Hardline Sikh members of parliament from India's troubled Punjab state plan to resign in protest against a government decision to postpone state assembly elections, sources in the Akali Dal Party said today.

Simranjit Singh Mann, leader of an Akali Dal faction, was collecting the resignations of MPs loyal to him and was expected to submit them tomorrow, they said.

A mass resignation by Akali Dal MPs would be a major setback for the four-month-old government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who has given top priority to

bringing about a political settlement in Punjab. Sikh separatists have fought for an independent homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure) for nearly a decade. More than 2,000 people were killed in Punjab last year and more than 600 have died so far this year.

Akali Dal sources said Mann was angry with the government for seeking a further extension of direct rule of Punjab from Delhi.

Singh promised during the campaign for last November's elections, in which the Congress Party was bundled out of power for only the second time in 42 years, that Punjab state elections would be held as soon as possible.

The state has been ruled directly by Delhi since May 1987 when Rajiv Gandhi, then prime minister, dismissed its elected government.

Six of the hardline Sikhs elected last November belong to the Akali Dal. Two of the three others, elected as independents, owe allegiance to Mann.

Mann, a former senior policeman detained for five years in connection with the assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984, was elected by a huge margin.

He was freed just before Rajiv left office after being elected from his jail cell, but has yet to take his oath. Mann had given as his reason

Parliament's refusal to allow him to take his one-metre (three-foot) sword inside the building.

Sikhs are obliged by their religion to carry a sword or dagger. Most carry a symbolic dagger.

Mann's supporters said he had called a meeting of Sikh leaders in New Delhi tomorrow for consultations and that he was then expected to take the oath as a member of Parliament.

They said he was expected to submit his resignation along with those of his colleagues after delivering a speech, which was to focus on Punjab.

43 drown as boat capsizes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, March 28, (Reuters): At least 43 people drowned and 60 were reported missing Monday night when a motor launch hit a sandbank and sank on the Naf River near the southern border town of Teknaf, state-owned Bangladesh television said yesterday.

Officials said the rest of the 153 passengers, travelling from the resort town of Cox's Bazar to Teknaf, swam ashore.

United News of Bangladesh said the privately-owned boat was carrying 153 people back from Burma after a day's trip Monday when it sank during high tide.

The Naf River is a natural boundary between Burma and Bangladesh near Teknaf, about 288 kilometres (180 miles) south of Dhaka.

The agency quoted survivors as saying the ferry veered and sank after passengers crowded onto one side to pull up a child who had fallen into the river. The child was among the dead.

UNB quoted local officials as saying the final death toll would probably be higher as many of the missing were presumed dead.



Two South African riot policemen stand guard at a rally in the black township of Kwa-Thema, east of Johannesburg. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops deployed to control infighting Zulus go on rampage

JOHANNESBURG, March 28, (Agencies): Hundreds of troops and police deployed today in Natal province to try to halt bloody clashes between thousands of heavily-armed blacks from rival factions.

Army units were deployed around Edendale near Pietermaritzburg after some 2,000 Zulus with guns and knives went on a rampage against supporters of the rival United Democratic Front. Police said patrols used

shotguns and tear-gas to disperse mobs, attacking and burning houses and offices.

Police reported widespread clashes in the area with, at least, one person dead and about 20 injured in the fighting. But local reporters, who did not want to be named, said up to 14 people had been killed and scores of houses sent on fire in communities around Edendale.

"Things are completely out of control. It looks terrible. There were 2,000 people fighting it out with guns and other weapons," said a journalist reached by phone. The journalist asked not to be identified.

Local residents said hundreds of troops were seen deploying near Edendale.

Army spokesman Col John Rolt said troops had been sent to the area to aid police, but gave no further details.

Zulus went on the rampage in the area after opponents stoned buses and other vehicles returning Sunday from a Zulu rally, police said. Police said Zulus hijacked buses to truck in hundreds of armed youths for the fighting.

Hundreds of terrified residents in black townships around Edendale had abandoned their homes today and fled into the countryside, residents said.

"It's a bloody war out there," said a medical worker.

Hundreds of people have been killed in black faction fighting in recent weeks in Natal. The Zulu tribe's Inkatha Movement is fighting the UDF for control of the region.

Both groups are anti-apartheid, but Inkatha supports separate states for different tribes or ethnic groups. The UDF wants a black majority government ruling all of South Africa.

Several local leaders charged police were aiding Inkatha fighters, giving them ammunition and helping them attack rival UDF fighters. The leaders were appealing to government officials to force police to act impartially.

Efforts by Nelson Mandela and other black leaders to end the

fighting have failed despite extensive appeals for peace.

In other developments, President F.W. de Klerk said in parliament in Cape Town last night that a date could not be set for ending apartheid laws. He said the government wanted to move as quickly as possible, but the issue was linked to pending talks on ending white-minority rule.

The government is to meet with the African National Congress April 11 to try and clear the way for talks on sharing political power with blacks.

African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu said black leaders would complain about Monday's police shooting when the ANC meets government leaders April 11.

Bavumile Vilakazi, a spokesman for the Vaal civic association representing several townships south of Johannesburg, said 14 people had died during the shooting, or afterwards in the hospital, when police fired on the protest march in the township of Sebokeng.

Police officers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that five blacks were killed and said about 260 people were hurt, half of them by police.

The officers said the police fired in self-defence when the armed crowd surged forward to attack.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Population boom

BANGKOK, March 28, (UPI): Vietnam's population has topped 64 million, is growing at the alarming rate of 2.5 per cent per year and could reach 80 million by the end of the decade, a preliminary sample of the national census showed.

The Vietnam News Agency said that a preliminary population report based on a 5 per cent sample of census information gathered last year showed that Vietnam's population was 64.4 million on April 1, 1989 — an increase of 11.7 million in ten years.

Bus crash: 41 dead

CALCUTTA, March 28, (UPI): A private bus with more than 60 people aboard plunged from a bridge west of Calcutta and struck power lines, igniting the vehicle, killing at least 41 people and injuring 20 others, police said.

The mishap occurred at around 11 pm Monday near the town of Kharagpur, located about 60 miles (100 km) west of the West Bengal state capital of Calcutta, police said.

China denies

BEIJING, March 28, (Reuters): A senior Chinese official on Wednesday dismissed as rumours foreign reports that Beijing had begun exporting short-range missiles to the Middle East.

"Don't believe in rumours," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Xiaoming when asked to comment on the reports. Li, recently promoted as assistant to Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, declined further comment.

Namibia pardons

WINDHOEK, March 28, (Reuters): President Sam Nujoma of newly-independent Namibia announced a wide-ranging amnesty for prisoners on Tuesday and warned the tiny mixed-race Baster tribe that their attempts at secession were illegal.

He excluded first offenders sentenced for murder, rape, robbery, stock theft and commercial offences carrying sentences of longer than two years.

Battlefield victories

PHNOM PENH, March 28, (AP): The Vietnam-backed government, having passed a crucial battlefield test, appears more entrenched domestically and may make fewer compromises in negotiations to end the country's 11-year-old civil war.

The avowed September pullout of Vietnam's forces left the ousted and jittery Phnom Penh government facing a three-party guerrilla coalition that includes the powerful Khmer Rouge.

Vietnam bans

BANGKOK, March 28, (AP): Vietnam has banned the export of rare forest products, hoping to stem serious deforestation due to war and a rapidly growing population.

The ban was issued recently by the Forestry and External Economic Relations Ministries and the general customs department, the official domestic radio, Radio Hanoi, reported. No date for the ban was specified.

Cuong dies

BANGKOK, March 28, (AP): Vietnamese Navy Commander Adm. Giap Van Cuong has died, the official Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday. He was 78.

The officer died of an unspecified illness on Tuesday at a military hospital in Hanoi, the national capital, said the report, monitored in Bangkok.

Official resigns

BANGKOK, March 28, (AP): Thailand's top military officer, acting supreme commander Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, said Tuesday he has submitted his resignation and was considering an offer to join the cabinet.

"I have handed in my resignation, but it is not yet effective," Chavalit, 57, told reporters.

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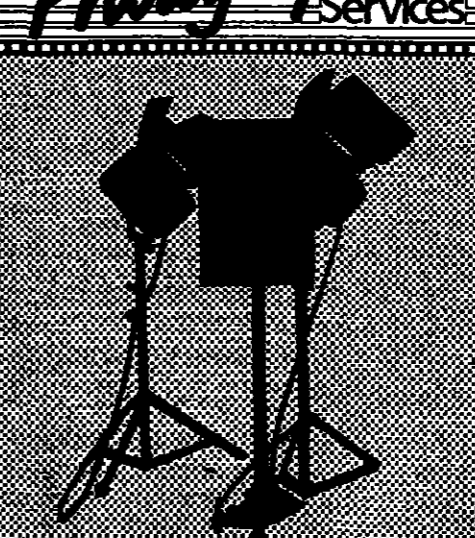
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هكذا مثلاً

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LYON, France: French novelist Françoise Sagan was given a six-month suspended jail sentence on Tuesday for drug use and possession after police found 300 grams of cocaine and as much heroin in her Parisian flat.

The drugs netted in the 34-year-old writer's home two years ago have a street value of about half a million francs (\$83,000).

A Lyon court hearing cases of about 40 members of the Paris set for drugs abuse also fined Sagan 10,000 francs (\$1,700). (Reuters)

LONDON: A painting of a seated child dancer by the Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck sold for 1.1 million pounds (\$1.78 million) in London Tuesday night, auctioneers Sotheby's said.

The price was believed to be a record at auction for any Finnish painter and was paid by an unidentified Finnish buyer bidding on the telephone at the opening of a two-day sale of 19th and 20th century Scandinavian art. (AP)

LEXINGTON, Kentucky: Horseman William Shatner, better known as Capt James T. Kirk of "Star Trek," won an earthly court battle Tuesday in a dispute over breeding rights to a stallion.

A judge ruled that Shatner hadn't agreed to a lifetime breeding agreement with Lexington horsewoman Linda Johnson. The agreement would have allowed her to breed two mares a year to one of his stallions.

"I feel justice has been served," Shatner said after the verdict. "I know I've said that many times in fiction. It's a pleasure to say it in reality." (AP)

MOSCOW: Old habits die hard in the Soviet Union.

"I would like to stress the responsibility of local Soviets in introducing new forms of production," comrade Khrushchev went on to say, "said a television newsreader on Tuesday, reporting on a speech to the presidential council."

"Goodness, I'm sorry — comrade Gorbachev went on to say," he added hastily.

Nikita Khrushchev, President Mikhail Gorbachev's predecessor three decades ago, led the Soviet Union from 1954 to 1964, launching the campaign to end dictator Josef Stalin's influence and introducing a cultural thaw before he was ousted by the politburo in favour of Leonid Brezhnev. He died in 1971.

Soviet television declined to identify the newsreader. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: The National Science Foundation announced Tuesday a grant programme of up to \$80 million aimed at helping science and math achievement within 10 years.

Currently, US students perform more poorly on science and math achievement tests than their counterparts in many industrialised nations. (UPI)

'Miraculous aubergine'

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): Thousands of Muslims have flocked to the house of an Asian man in central England who says he has found the name of Allah written inside an aubergine.

Zahid Kassam, 32, said yesterday that when the aubergine (eggplant) was cut open, the seeds formed the name of Allah in Arabic.

Up to 4,500 pilgrims have visited Kassam's modest house in the town of Leicester since the local mosque said the vegetable was a holy object.

"I feel it is my duty to show these people what has happened. We feel very blessed," Kassam said.

His wife Farida bought the aubergine at a local shop and found the inscription as she was preparing to cook it.

Last week an Asian living in nearby Nottingham also claimed to have found an aubergine with the name of Allah inside it.

NEW YORK: O. J. Simpson, 30-year-old heir to the Rockefeller and Carnegie fortunes, was flown back to New York Tuesday for treatment of shark bites he suffered in Fiji.

Simpson, former NFL star, was accompanied by his wife, the former Nancy Kerrigan, the steel fortune, returned to the United States accompanied by a medical team, according to a spokesman for Forbes magazine. (UPI)



Alex Wengler (left) and Rita Thomas (right) pose with their son Daniel who died yesterday. He was born with his heart outside his body. (Reuters wirephoto)

Malformed heart baby dies

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 28, (Reuters): A baby boy, born with a malformed heart outside his body, died today, 13 days after undergoing an operation to repair and replace his heart inside a rebuilt and enlarged chest cavity.

Daniel Thomas probably died from a bloodstream infection, a spokesman for Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital said.

The seven-hour operation, believed to be unique, took place immediately after Daniel's birth on March 15.

Surgeons reconstructed his chest by slicing existing ribs lengthwise and drawing the pieces forward along his body to create a complete rib cage.

There have been 44 recorded cases world-wide of both partial ectopia, where the heart protrudes from the body, and total ectopia. Daniel's condition. There have been 20 operations to correct partial ectopia, which seven babies survived.



Glenda Jackson signals her victory after she was selected to stand for parliament. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jackson selected

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson was selected to stand for Parliament by Britain's opposition Labour Party yesterday and pledged to give up acting if she was elected.

Jackson, 53, who won an Academy Award as best actress for her performance in the 1974 film "A Touch of Class," beat three other women contenders to win the right to contest a north London constituency in the next general election.

Jackson will contest the Hampstead and Highgate constituency, now held with a slim majority by Sir Geoffrey Finsberg of the ruling Conservative Party.

Labour is currently well ahead in opinion polls, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher does not have to call a general election until mid-1992.

Jackson, a member of the Labour Party from the age of 18, has appeared in dozens of plays and films, including "Women in Love" and "Sunday, Bloody Sunday."

PALERMO, Sicily: Family and friends of Giuseppe Tornatore toasted his Academy Award for best foreign film at an all-night party at his parents' home outside Palermo.

Only after Tornatore called from Los Angeles at 8:30 am (0730 GMT) did his parents and four brothers and sisters get to bed.

"To be honest, I thought the film would win but never said anything so as not to bring bad luck," said his sister, Daniela. (AP)

MILAN, Italy: Financier Carlo de Benedetti was questioned for six hours Tuesday by a judge about his 65 days as a vice president of Banco Ambrosiano, which failed in 1982, touching off Italy's largest banking scandal.

Afterward, De Benedetti told reporters he was "serene and satisfied" because he told the magistrate "the total honesty of my behaviour." (AP)

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme court Monday refused to enter a case involving a claim that a bank discriminated against an Indian native for refusing to issue him a credit card because he was not a US citizen.

The court refused to hear a case brought by Jeetendra Bhandari seeking review of a ruling by the 3th US Circuit Court of Appeals. (UPI)

BERN: The Swiss News Agency reported Tuesday that there are 18.4 cases of AIDS per 100,000 inhabitants in Switzerland.

The number of cases increased by 9 between January and February, reaching 1,220, the majority of which remain mainly within the so-called "high-risk" groups, namely homosexuals and drug users. (Kuna)

ZARAGOZA, Spain: A doctor who had defied an obscure terrorist group was killed Tuesday when a pistol-wielding woman marched into his office, fired bullets into his head and chest, and sped away with an accomplice, police said.

The doctor, Ramon Y. Fernandez, helped force-feed two convicted terrorists during a recent hunger strike of members of the extreme-left group, called Grapo, a Spanish government official in this northeastern city said.

Monk, nun in love

ROUEN, France, March 28, (Reuters): Two neighbouring monasteries in northwest France have been left leaderless after the abbot and prioress resigned, citing an emotional attachment.

Catholic church officials said yesterday Philippe Aubin, 49, abbot at the Benedictine abbey of Bee-Hellouin, explained he resigned because of his feelings towards Marie Ephrem, prioress at the Sainte-Françoise Romaine monastery two km (one mile) away.

The 55-year-old prioress herself quit after hearing of his resignation.

"When a monk and a nun cannot fulfil their commitments, especially when they are in charge of a community, it is unfortunate for both their establishments," Joseph Duval, Archbishop of Rouen, told Reuters.

TOKYO: A Japanese research group at Yokohama University, near here, has developed a coded Integrated Circuit (IC) card that protects computer networks and fax machines from being accessed by hackers or any unauthorized users, it was reported Tuesday.

The coded IC card was developed by a group led by Professor Hideki Imai. It has a built-in microcomputer and allows easy access if the user has a secret code and an adapter for the new system. (Kuna)

WASHINGTON: The US navy's top-ranking female officer said on Tuesday that no one knows how well women could perform in combat and she doubted that the United States was ready to test them.

Rear Admiral Roberta Hazard told the Senate defence appropriations subcommittee that women had the skills to fly combat planes, operate ships and perform other combat jobs. (Reuters)

LONDON: Jewellers Kutchinsky, whose audacious creations are de rigueur in some jet-set circles, said on Tuesday they had crafted the ultimate Easter Egg.

The two-foot (half-a-metre) tall egg, made from 15 kg (37 pounds) of gold and studded with 20,000 pink diamonds, will go on sale at seven million pounds (\$11.3 million). (Reuters)

Half billion suffer from tropical diseases: WHO

WASHINGTON, March 28, (UPI): Nearly one person in 10 throughout the world almost a half-billion people — suffers from one or more tropical diseases and the situation is getting worse, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

Of those infected, a WHO report said, most live in poorer countries with less than \$400 per capita income annually and most live in Africa. "The whole population of the (African) continent — 500 million people — is at risk from at least one tropical disease," the report said.

The diseases can cause tremendous pain and suffering, ranging from ulcers, internal organ damage, and gross deformities of face and limb, to blindness, brain damage and death, the report said.

"Beyond their toll of individual illness and death, these tropical diseases have insidious effects on society," said Dr Hiroshi Nakajima,

director-general of the United Nations health agency.

"They impede national and individual development, make fertile land inhospitable, impair intellectual and physical growth and exact a huge cost in treatment and control programmes."

WHO estimates included 270 million people with malaria, 200 million people with schistosomiasis, caused by water-borne parasites, 90 million with lymphatic filariasis, the cause of elephantiasis, 16 million with onchocerciasis, known as "river blindness," 12 million with leishmaniasis, and 10 million with leprosy.

Most of the diseases are caused by tiny, complex parasites. Insects spread all of the parasitic diseases except schistosomiasis, which is spread by fresh-water snails, and leprosy, which is caused by a bacteria and thought to be

transmitted through the nasal discharge of infected people.

In addition, the report estimated there are 25,000 new cases each year of African trypanosomiasis, known as "African sleeping sickness," an often fatal disease caused by parasites transmitted by the bite of the tsetse fly.

"Because of the nature of the diseases, they can spring up after years of control," said Dr Jose Najera, director of WHO's tropical disease control programme. "We are fighting an elusive target. Vigilance and research are two of our most important defenses."

While tropical diseases are often considered the result of poverty, the WHO report said the process of economic development can provoke outbreaks. It cited Brazil as an example, where development of the Amazon river is creating new breeding sites for malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

"Tropical diseases were once considered diseases of the rural poor," Najera said. "They still are, but now they are also closely associated with people's need to earn income — for example, with the recent massive migration from rural to urban areas and with new irrigation and mining projects."

In Africa, the report said, nearly 400 million people — nearly 80 per cent of the population — are at risk from malaria and little has been done to control the situation. Other rampant tropical diseases in Africa are schistosomiasis, river blindness and African sleeping sickness.

Asia, the report said, has an estimated 100 million or more cases of tropical diseases each year, with the malaria, schistosomiasis and filariasis seen as the most serious.

In Central and South America, more than 35 million are infected. There, the most serious diseases are chagas, and schistosomiasis.

Sydney's 'granny killer' arrested

SYDNEY, March 28, (AP): Police today said they arrested Sydney's so-called "granny killer," charging a 58-year-old man with the bludgeoning deaths of six elderly women in the city's leafy north shore suburbs.

The suspect, John Wayne Glover, also was charged in the city local court with a seventh attempted murder. He also faces several other assault and robbery charges.

During the yearlong murder spree, six women — all at least in their eighties — were found bludgeoned and strangled outside their homes. The killings terrorised the elderly in the fashionable northern suburbs, and police set up a special 40-member "granny killer" task force.

One of the victims was 84-year-old socialite lady Winifred Ashton, and newspapers referred to the hunt for the "granny killer." Police at the time said they were hunting a psychopath and issued several sketches of a man in his twenties.

They did not explain the discrepancy. A spokesman refused to answer media inquiries, saying he could not prejudice the court case.

Public said Glover, a sales representative, was married and living with his family until his arrest a week ago. He was also a pianist and had a job as a teacher.

Magistrate Kevin Waller ordered him held in the psychiatric wing of North Bay jail pending his next court appearance on May 9.

The court heard that in several of the attacks Glover allegedly used a hammer to bludgeon his victims and then strangle them with their stockings. In each case, the victims were followed home after shopping trips.

Glover also was charged with four counts of indecent assault, two of counts of assault and robbery and one count of assault during the past 12 months.

Glover was found unconscious March 19 in the home of a 60-year-old Joan Sinclair, who had been bashed and strangled to death with her stockings like the others. Police prosecutor Sgt. Robert Rodgers said Glover was lying in a bathtub having drunk a bottle of whiskey and taken a large quantity of prescription drugs.

He also was charged with the murders of Gwendolin Mitchell, 82, Lady Winifred Ashton, 84, Margaret Paton, 85, Clive Cleveland, 81, and Muriel Falconer, 92. No motive has been established for the crimes.

In addition, Glover was charged with the attempted murder of 86-year-old Doris Cox, who was found brutally bashed in the grounds of a retirement home in Sydney last October.

First-ever triple transplant patient dies

PITTSBURGH, March 28, (Reuters): Cindy Martin, the 26-year-old woman who became the world's first and only heart, liver and kidney transplant patient in December, has died of complications from hepatitis.

Officials at the University of Pittsburgh hospital where the transplant was performed on December 3 and where Martin had been recovering, said Martin died on Monday night from recurrent hepatitis, which resulted in multi-system failure with an overwhelming infection called sepsis.

Sepsis is a common post-transplant complication, Lisa Rossi, a hospital spokeswoman, said yesterday.

Just after the surgery, Martin's doctors had said they hoped the operation would add five to 10 years to her life.

Martin's condition had varied between critical and serious since the 21-hour operation, and she had spent time on and off a respirator, Rossi said.

She said Martin's liver and kidney had failed on Monday, but there was no damage to her transplanted heart.

Martin's doctors decided in September, 1989 that she needed a triple transplant operation after her liver failed during an operation to remove her gall bladder.

Her first heart transplant three years earlier, necessary because Martin suffered from an inherited heart disease, had failed to take hold and her kidneys were damaged by cyclosporine, an anti-rejection drug.

Martin had also suffered from the liver disease hepatitis before the triple-transplant operation, Rossi said.



Legendary designer Halston (centre) died on Monday in San Francisco at age 57. From left, appearing in Halston gowns, are Martha Graham, Betty Ford, Elizabeth Taylor and Liza Minnelli. Halston was suffering from Kaposi's sarcoma, a form of cancer frequently associated with AIDS. (Reuters wirephoto)

Famed fashion designer Halston dies

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28, (AP): The famed fashion designer Halston, who began his career as a hatmaker and became one of the guiding forces in fashion, has died at the age of 57, a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

Halston, born Roy Halston Frowick, died in his sleep at 11:21 pm Monday (0721 GMT Tuesday) at Pacific Presbyterian Hospital, according to nursing supervisor David Rein.

His brother, Robert Frowick, said death came after a long battle with cancer.

A top-rated designer, Halston designed the Pillbox Hat worn by Jacqueline Kennedy at the presidential inauguration of her husband, John F. Kennedy, in 1961, and later pioneered the use of ultra-suede.

Known around the world for his originality and flair, Halston designed clothes for such celebrities as Mrs. Kennedy, later Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and Lauren Bacall, Liza Minnelli and Bianca Jagger.

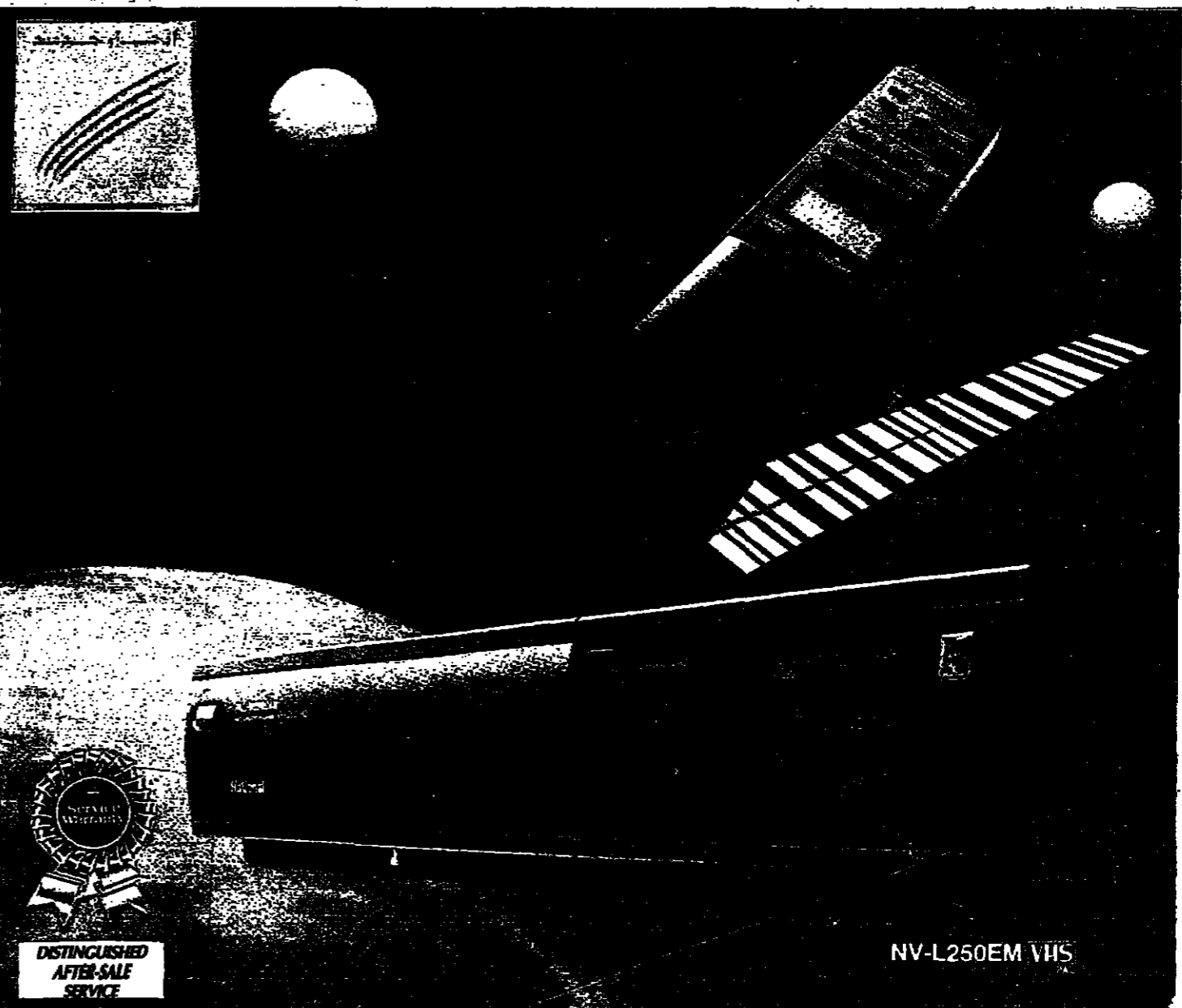
His designs were characterised by a classical simplicity and the use of fine materials, and were considered an American response to European eclecticism.

"The Halston label on a dress or perfume tells a woman that what she's buying will be recognised as 'right,'" Vogue magazine once said, "that it's more than just stylish, it's in good taste."

Halston was born April 23, in Des Moines, Iowa, and attended Indiana University and the Chicago Art Institute. He began making hats while still in college.

In 1958, he went to work for Bergdorf Goodman department store in New York City as a milliner, and later began designing Bergdorf's ready-to-wear fashions. He opened his own couture house in 1968.

He added a ready-to-wear range, called Halston International, in 1970, and Halston originals in 1972. His business was acquired by Norton Simon in 1973, and Halston later added menswear and a perfume to his line.



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INTERNATIONAL



Police on alert

A plainclothes policeman sifts amongst the wreckage of a car blown-up by a bomb on Tuesday in Athens. The car belonging to a Bulgarian diplomat was one of 12 cars owned by foreign diplomats destroyed in separate incidents. Police have been on alert for guerrilla attacks before national elections scheduled for April 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hawke may win 4-seat majority

CANBERRA, March 28. (Reuters): Prime Minister Bob Hawke today prepared a revamped government for his fourth term in office in anticipation of a Labour Party of three or four seats after Saturday's Australian general election.

Hawke's expectation of a workable parliamentary majority grew as electoral commission counting in the last marginal constituencies in the close poll showed a swing towards Labour.

Labour Party officials said the swing, from postal and preferential votes, could give Labour up to 76 seats and the Liberal/National parties' coalition 71.

The present tally, with seven marginals pending, is Labour 72 seats, coalition 68 and one independent, the commission said.

Hawke, in power since 1989, held talks with left, centre and right-wing factions of his Labour Party on a revamped team for a fourth successive term.

Finance Minister Peter Walsh, who this week gave warning that Australia was in grave economic trouble, called for a rejuvenated team in parliament, which resumes in early May.

The Labour Party caucus had a moral responsibility to elect the most talented ministry

we can muster. We cannot afford anything less," he told reporters today.

The swing away from Labour, which had a 22-seat majority before the poll, was blamed by party analysts mostly on economic factors such as high interest rates on home and commercial loans.

Australia, suffering from a poor trading performance, also has an 118 billion dollar (\$14 billion US) net foreign debt, inflation of 7.8 per cent and an unemployment rate of 6.5 per cent.

Political analysts said a significant government change is likely to be that Treasurer Paul Keating will be given the additional largely ceremonial role of deputy prime minister, replacing the retired Lionel Bowen.

Keating would continue as treasurer until Hawke, who has vowed to serve his full three-year term, step down, leaving Keating positioned to replace him, party sources said.

Any blood-letting in the coalition, which considered the election presented its best chance to govern for seven years, would wait until the final result was announced, party sources said.



Police constables Ian Dixon (left) and Tony Reniker of the Corona police station with their bicycles which they use for patrols due to a shortage of police cars in country areas of New South Wales. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. German SPD agree to coalition talks

EAST BERLIN, March 28. (Reuters): After several delays, East Germany's new parliament now looks set to meet next week — with a new coalition government on the way soon.

East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) agreed to begin preliminary talks with the election-winning Christian Democrats (CDU) on forming the country's first non-communist government. Talks are set for tomorrow.

Moves towards forming a coalition appeared to be gathering pace, but the spectre of the hated former Stasi security police still hangs over the country.

Opposition activists who helped spark last year's revolution announced protests in five cities for tomorrow demanding that all 400 newly elected parliamentarians must be investigated for possible Stasi links.

Whispered allegations that some of them were informers for the Stasi have already delayed the business of forming a government.

Earlier the SPD, distant second in East Germany's first free elections, hinted that it was ready to drop its long-held insistence that the CDU must leave its right-wing partner, the German Social

Union (DSU), out of any coalition.

But the Social Democrats drew up a list of tough preconditions for entering talks with the Christian Democrats and warned that more would follow if a coalition was to work.

The conditions included the government's immediate recognition of the Polish-German border and a guarantee of social security for all East Germans when the two Germanys unite.

Despite the Social Democrat demands, CDU leader and likely Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said he was pleased — a sentiment which will be

heartily seconded in Bonn.

Günther Maheida, the acting president of East Germany's Parliament (Volkskammer) which was elected in the first free elections 10 days ago, called a meeting today of all 12 parliamentary parties to confirm the new 400-seat chamber would convene for the first time next Tuesday.

CDU spokesman Helmut Lueck said time was pressing and that De Maiziere hoped to set up a government by mid-April.

Fearing the Stasi accusations could

delay German unity, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl urged East Berlin to get on with forming a parliament.

Kohl said he backed a call by Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäfer for an amnesty for most of the estimated 109,000 informers working for the Stasi, which has been disbanded since the communist system collapsed last year.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Berlin yesterday appealed to East Germany to treat the ousted and ailing communist leader Erich Honecker with humaneness.

Soldiers protest extension of service

BUCHAREST, March 28. (AP): The army announced yesterday that military service will be extended by two months, immediately prompting a noisy protest by more than 1,000 Romanian soldiers.

An appeal by Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu, which was read on national television last night, said the regular 12-month service would be temporarily lengthened by "at most two months."

It was based on a decree of the ruling provisional council of national unity.

Maj. Gen. Constantin Stefanescu who appeared on TV after the decree was read, said: "The presence of experienced soldiers (nearing completion of their term) is necessary so that preparations for the coming elections can go smoothly."

Romania's first multi-party elections are scheduled to be held on May 20.

Soldiers bearing signs reading: "We don't want to be mocked," and "We want the decree revoked," gathered in front of the government building on Bucharest's Victoria Square, where they were confronted by several hundred heavily armed guards who surrounded the complex.

Groups of soldiers varying in number from several dozen to more than 300 marched in the night through the capital from their barracks on the outskirts to join their comrades. They were greeted with loud cheers and bearings when they reached the square.

"We don't want to be lied to any longer," chanted the protesters, who started arriving at the square soon after Stanculescu's appeal was broadcast on television.

"The Romanian Army has proved to be a factor of stability in the country," the decree said, adding that "the situation in some parts of Romania has shown that measures are necessary for increasing the combat readiness of the army."

This was a reference to recent unrest in Transylvania, where bloody clashes occurred between Romanians and members of the 2 million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority.

"That is why the period of military service will be lengthened by not longer than 60 days," the announcement quoting the decree said.

"Military experience (of the troops) is necessary to ensure the fighting capacity of the army," it added.

Ever since the overthrow last December of Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, in which the army played a decisive role, the military has been used repeatedly to ensure law and order and to prevent political and ethnic unrest.

Irrestent action was in the Transylvanian city of Tigris Mures, where thousands of soldiers were deployed last week to halt an outbreak of intercommunal fighting between Romanians and ethnic Hungarians.

But the morale in the armed forces has been reported to be low in recent months, and protesters in Bucharest complained that conditions for the ordinary soldiers were "very poor."

"We are used as unpaid workers, with very little food and no protective measures," said a corporal bearing the sign "specialised instruction means forced labour."

During Ceausescu's rule, much of the army was engaged in building his grandiose projects, in Bucharest and elsewhere.

Forum tops polls

Hungary's former reds defeated; runoffs on April 8

BUDAPEST, March 28. (Reuters): Hungarians gave the centre-right Democratic Forum a small lead and handed their former communist rulers a severe defeat in Sunday's first round of free national elections, according to partial results.

Total figures on party preferences announced yesterday gave the Forum 24.71 per cent of the vote against 21.38 per cent for the Alliance of Free Democrats, a liberal-social democratic party founded by one-time dissidents.

The party could be excluded from Parliament unless it boosts its tally to more than four per cent when separate votes for constituency candidates are added in.

The Alliance, which was tipped to win by most late opinion polls, could still defeat the Forum if it can piece together election pacts before a second round of voting at constituency level on April 8.

Its leaders believe even the first-round gap will narrow when the constituency vote is taken into account.

The lateness of results has been a bitter frustration to voters, politicians and nearly 2,000 foreign journalists who are covering the elections.

More than two days after polls closed, the election committee could not say what the results would mean in terms of the 152 seats to be distributed among Hungary's 20 counties under a system of proportion representation.

And it could not give an overview of the other half of Sunday's vote — ballots cast in favour of specific candidates standing in the country's 176 constituencies.

Hungarians knew the identities of only five of the 378 members of Parliament, those who won an absolute majority.

Candidates in the remaining 171 constituencies will take part in a run-off round on April 8, after which a third batch of 58 seats in parliament will be distributed according to national lists by a complicated transferable vote process.

Election officials said the turnout was 63.15 per cent of Hungary's 7.8 million electors for the county lists and 64.99 per cent for the constituency vote.

They blamed poor phone lines, a complex voting system, inexperience, bureaucracy and alleged dirty tricks in the Interior Ministry for delays in the results.

This is how the top eight of the 29 competing parties performed in the first-round election:

Hungarian Democratic Forum 24.71 per cent; League of Free Democrats 21.38 per cent; Independent Smallholders' Party 11.76 per cent; Hungarian Socialist Party 10.89 per cent; League of Young Democrats 8.94 per cent; Christian Democratic People's Party 6.46 per cent; Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party 3.68; Social Democratic Party of Hungary 3.55 per cent.

Earlier in the day, Nemeth, accused the Interior Ministry's electoral office of supplying incomplete information on the voting to the committee.

Nemeth did not specify whether he thought the Interior Ministry, which many Hungarians continue to associate with communist repression, was intentionally delaying results showing the old-guard Communist Party's poor performance.



Jozsef Antall (left) leader of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, and ex-communist state minister Imre Pozsgay following the results of the first leg of the Hungarian polls. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jury picked for Marcos trial

Trial resumes on April 3

NEW YORK, March 28. (AP): Seven women and five men were sworn in yesterday as jurors in the racketeering and fraud trial of former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The jurors include two transit workers, three postal employees and two utility employees. Also on the panel are a retired secretary, a teacher's aide, an engineer, a computer operator and an estate manager with a law firm.

The jurors, who were chosen late in the trial's fifth day, also will consider charges against Mrs Marcos' co-defendant, Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi.

Federal Judge John F. Keenan told the jurors to return to court April 3 when the trial resumes with opening arguments.

In a written decision released earlier in the day, the judge ruled that bank records from Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines could be used as evidence

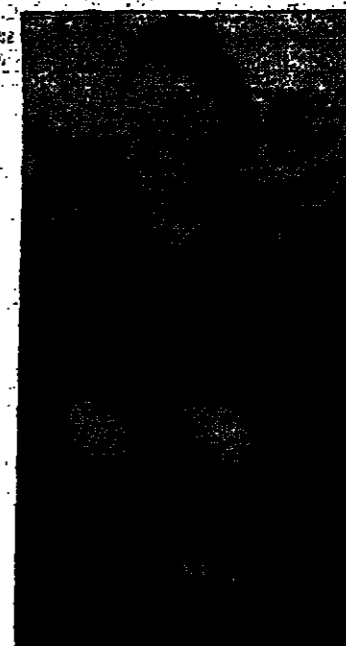
against Mrs Marcos.

Her lawyers had sought to block the foreign bank documents, but Keenan decided they were admissible because prosecutors had filed the proper certification.

Keenan reserved decision on the admissibility of documents from Italy, Switzerland and West Germany, saying he would rule before the start of the trial's opening arguments.

Among the documents allowed as evidence were 2,000 pages of records from two trust accounts at the Standard Chartered Bank of Hong Kong, which prosecutors alleged were controlled by Mrs Marcos and her late husband, Ferdinand.

Keenan said the government will use the trust account records to try to establish that the Marcoses owned three Panamanian companies that in turn owned a building in New York City.



Imelda arrives at federal court

IRA kidnapper released: The Irish Republican Army (IRA) kidnapper of Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema was released from jail today after serving 14 years of a 20-year term.

Herrema welcomed the release, telling Irish state radio "there is no bitterness. I would be prepared to meet Eddie Gallagher again."

Gallagher, 42, married British heiress Rose Dugdale while in prison and the couple have a 15-year-old son, Ruairi. (Reuters)

Trawler impounded: The Nigerian navy impounded a Greek-registered fishing trawler yesterday for fishing illegally in Nigerian waters, the official news Agency of Nigeria reported.

It said the captain and crew of the Oceanis Vill have been detained at a naval base in Lagos, the capital.

The agency did not identify the captain by name, or say who owned the impounded vessel. (AP)

TV beamed to Cuba: Television Marti, a US-funded news and entertainment station based in Florida, beamed signals to Cuba for the first time on Tuesday and the Cuban government said it jammed the broadcast after just 10 minutes.

Calling the broadcast the beginning of a "crisis of incalculable consequences" in what it termed already poor relations between Cuba and the United States, Havana's statement added that Washington might be using the broadcasts to seek an excuse to launch a military invasion. (Reuters)

Man kills wife: A 29-year-old man killed his wife and seriously injured his baby daughter before committing suicide in a hospital corridor Tuesday, police said.

Because the couple are both dead, "we're having to find out from others" what caused the shooting at St. Catherine's Hospital, police spokesman Ger Straatman said. (AP)

Kosovo police purged: Serbian police Tuesday began purging Kosovo's police force of ethnic Albanians accused of inaction during ethnic unrest in the troubled province.

The Serbian police, who took direct control of the police force this weekend, also raided nine ethnic Albanian homes, arresting six people and seizing a cache of weapons, ammunition, and 230,000 West German marks, said the state news agency Tanjug. (AP)

Limits on lobbyists: Foreigners are not always required to disclose the millions of dollars they pay American lobbyists to promote their point of view, witnesses told Congress Tuesday.

Sen. John Heinz said he has proposed legislation to strengthen the foreign agents registration act so foreigners will not be able to subvert US national policy and national security.

He singled out the Japanese as among the biggest spenders. Between 1987 and 1989 the total spent by all registered agents for Japanese entities was over \$120 million, Heinz estimated. (AP)

Eisenhower honoured: On the centenary of his birth, US Congressmen on Tuesday paid tribute to Dwight Eisenhower as a soldier, statesman, a World War Two commander who crushed Nazi forces and a president who helped keep peace in the cold war.

In a ceremony, lawmakers, family and friends honoured Eisenhower as the "good soldier" from Abilene, Kansas, sportsman and the 34th president of the United States who died 21 years ago on Wednesday at the age of 78. (Reuters)

Happy Land leases: Prosecutors on Tuesday laid a complex trail of deeds and leases to determine who should be responsible for allowing the operation of the illegal Happy Land Social Club where 87 people died in a fire.

Those along the trail include one of New York's major real estate operators and the husband of celebrated actress Kathleen Turner. (AP)

Amnesty urges inquiry: Amnesty International on Wednesday urged Argentine President Carlos Menem to order an inquiry into allegations of torture, disappearances and secret killings of opposition group members that attacked an army barracks.

The world-wide human rights group published a 21-page report detailing reported violations against members of the small leftist group movement for the fatherland. The group tried to take over an army base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on Jan 23, 1989. (AP)

Beam weapons predicted to revolutionise war, spur arms trade

WASHINGTON, March 28. (Reuters): Despite deep cuts in conventional forces, the superpowers are developing futuristic beam weapons which could revolutionise warfare and add to the flow of arms to the Third World.

In the eyes of some experts, beam weapons could change the nature of war as dramatically in the near future as the machine-gun did earlier in the 20th century.

Beam weapons range from shoulder-held laser guns that fire a concentrated, destructive ray of light to large high-tech devices that could destroy satellites by

knocking out their electronics with powerful radio transmissions or laser beams.

According to US experts, the Soviet Union has the edge over the United States in developing what is known as "directed energy weapons" and "radio frequency weapons."

After pouring huge sums into these fields for three decades, the Soviet Union is said to be close to deploying tactical beam weapons.

In the United States, experts say, work on battlefield beam weapons — as opposed to space-based "star wars" equipment — has not been affected by

proposed cuts in defence spending as the threat of East-West war recedes.

With the industrial world's defence industries preparing to cushion the expected loss of lucrative contracts, some international arms experts predict that weapons now under development will eventually swell the flood of arms to regional conflicts.

"The advent into the world's arsenals of directed energy weapons may be as revolutionary as was the introduction of the other great weapon developments of the 20th century — the machine-gun and

the atomic bomb," according to the former head of the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), Leonard Perrotti.

Writing in the latest issue of Signal, the magazine of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Perrotti said the new weapons would sooner or later come into the possession of countries hostile to the United States.

The United States said yesterday it had determined that the Soviet Union sent medium-range nuclear-capable missiles to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria and was checking whether the transfer violated a 1987 arms control treaty.

Surinam frees rebel leader

PARAMARIBO, Surinam, March 28. (AP): The government yesterday freed a guerrilla leader and 10 of his men arrested on Monday following a shootout with the Army in which two rebels were killed.

Presidential spokeswoman Claudine Vermaut said the government declared to release Romy Brunswijk, leader of the jungle commando guerrilla movement, and his fellow bush negro guerrillas after discussions with the attorney general's office over the charges placed against them.

Poindexter defence rests

WASHINGTON, March 28. (AP): The defence rested its case yesterday in the Iran-Contra cover-up trial of former national security adviser John Poindexter after 5 1/2 days of testimony.

The case drew to a close without any testimony from Poindexter, who was accused of concealing from Congress the White House's role in a November 1985 shipment of arms to Iran and then Col. Oliver North's secret military assistance to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

According to testimony in related cases and before Congress, the Iran-Contra scheme involved White House employees selling arms to Iran for \$30 million to help supply the Nicaraguan Contras and repaying the US government \$12.2 million for the weapons that were used.

All of this allegedly happened while Congress, the branch of government which is solely entitled to allot money, had banned any sales to Iran and ended the Iran-Contra scheme.

Among the final witnesses for Poindexter was California Congressman Robert Dornan, who testified that there were frequent meetings between North and up to 30 congressmen during the period of a congressional ban on military aid to the Contras.

LANGOLITA



UN co-ordinator

Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, head of the UN office co-ordinating aid to Afghanistan, addressing a news conference in Islamabad, yesterday said he was encouraged by his talks with Kabul government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sudan welcomes ceasefire proposal

KHARTOUM, March 28, (UPI): The United States has put a "commendable" proposal to the Sudanese government for a ceasefire in the country's 7-year civil war, a senior government official disclosed yesterday.

Col Mohamed Al Amin Khalifa, member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, said US Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen had set out a proposal to end the war which would also be put to the rebel forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

He gave no details of the proposal, nor did he say when it was made, US officials in Khartoum were not immediately available for comment.

"The Sudanese government is awaiting the reply of the rebellion movement to the proposal," Khalifa said.

■ The United Nations has launched

a \$120-million relief programme for more than four million Sudanese, but still has to overcome objections by rebels who have fought the government for seven years.

Michael Priestley, director of the UN relief programme operation Lifeline Sudan, said on Monday 104,000 tonnes of food was needed for about 4.5 million southerners displaced or affected by civil war.

He told a conference in Khartoum of government officials, the United Nations and donor nations that the operation would try to meet the needs of 2.23 million people in the south, 400,000 refugees in northern Sudan and 1.8 million displaced in Khartoum.

■ Sudan released Hamza Hendawi, Reuters correspondent in Khartoum, on Tuesday after four days in detention.

Masked Arabs kill UN employee

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 28, (AP): Masked Palestinians armed with axes and knives murdered a 32-year-old Arab who worked for the United Nations and wounded six of his relatives in a West Bank refugee camp, the army and Arab reports said today.

Arab reports said the dead man, identified as Yasser Kazmouz, had been accused of collaboration with Israel in slogans painted on walls in the Nur Shams refugee camp, where he lived.

They said more than 50 masked men participated in the raid and that they used a blow torch to break into the family home late last night.

It was one of the bloodiest attacks involving a suspected collaborator in the 27-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army confirmed the death and said police were investigating.

The victim's 70-year-old father and a brother were reported in critical condition, and four other family members were also hospitalized with stabbing and beating wounds, Arab hospital officials said.

Officials at the UN Relief and Works Agency, which oversees refugee aid programmes, said Kazmouz was the UNRWA service officer in the Nur Shams camp and was responsible for supervising camp activities and processing applications for UN aid.

Global conference must for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP): Former president Jimmy Carter, just back from a private peace-seeking mission to the Middle East, said yesterday there will be no end to unrest there without an international peace conference for the region.

Carter, who briefed President George Bush for 35 minutes on his trip, said he was encouraged about the prospects for peace.

"I think that there's a general acceptance now that a comprehensive peace is not only necessary but I think inevitable," he said.

Nonetheless, Carter said it was distressing that the Middle East is still in turmoil 11 years after he helped negotiate the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt.

Carter refused to predict when any kind of negotiations might begin in the Middle East. The United States has long opposed such a broad-ranging, many-nations conference, preferring direct negotiations among the states involved.

The Israeli coalition government recently fell, not long after Bush stirred controversy by criticising the settlement of Soviet Jews in East Jerusalem.

The United States has been pressing Israel to open talks with the Palestinians of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been trying to put together a Palestinian delegation. Carter noted.

"I think our government ought to use its maximum influence — not pressure — in

Israel and the other countries as well to go to the bargaining table to find peace," he said.

There will be no end to the intifada — the term used for the Palestinian uprising against Israel — until "there is an international peace conference," Carter said in remarks at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank he visited after his trip to the White House.

Carter said he believes the intifada was caused by the way the Israelis have treated Palestinians.

Carter said he brought up human rights repeatedly in Israel, complaining about practices such as detaining Palestinians for 12 months without allowing access to a lawyer.

Israelis of all parties have said prospects for talks with Palestinians were threatened by Bush's statement that the United States did not want to see additional Jewish settlements established in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. Past US statements on the subjects have not specifically mentioned East Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed.

Carter defended Bush's statements. "I think what President Bush has expressed is a policy that's been our government's ... for the last 23 years."

The US government has for years insisted that the final status of East Jerusalem could be determined only by negotiations. Carter visited Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan on his latest trip.

Uprising will go on, says Arafat

NEW DELHI, March 28, (Agencies): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat declared yesterday that the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories would continue in "wave after wave" regardless of the outcome of Israel's political stalemate.

On the second day of a three-day visit to India, Arafat also condemned the US Senate for approving a resolution calling for recognition of occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a news conference he said it would harm prospects for Middle East peace.

Prior to meeting the press, Arafat held a "working lunch" with Prime Minister V.P. Singh and received an honorary doctorate of science degree from the Jamia Millia Islamia, a leading Islamic university.

Arafat, recognised by India as the president of Palestine, also accepted the 1988 Jawaharlal Nehru award for international understanding, an annual award named after India's first prime minister.

President R. Venkataraman reaffirmed India's support for the PLO and an independent Palestinian state and told Arafat: "May your steadfast journey lead you to total victory."

At his news conference, Arafat said a resolution of Israel's political leadership stalemate would have no effect on the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"They think this will enable them to win time which would allow them to eliminate the intifada. But this intifada will continue, wave after wave, until end of the Israeli occupation," Arafat said.

"From the beginning they have been trying to win time," Arafat said. "They think this will enable them to ... annihilate the intifada (uprising)."

"To resign or not to resign, elections or no elections, this intifada will continue," he said, rejecting as "silly" a question on whether the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was marginalising the exiled PLO leadership.

He accused the United States and other unnamed countries of refusing to admit Soviet Jewish migrants, suggesting that many of the 100,000 Soviet immigrants which Israel expects this year had really wanted to settle elsewhere.

Anger over rabbi's remarks

Peres to push for early polls

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 28, (AP): Politicians from the left and right found themselves in rare agreement yesterday in anger over an ultra-orthodox rabbi's remarks denouncing the secular life-style of Kibbutzim, Israel's communal agricultural settlements.

Leader of the centre-left Labour Party, Shimon Peres, meanwhile, said he will push for early elections if he fails to form a new government rather

than give the rival right-wing Likud bloc a shot at putting together a coalition.

Peres suffered an apparent setback yesterday when three left-wing parties said they were suspending coalition talks with the Labour Party until it becomes clear Peres still has a good chance to form a government, Israel Radio reported.

The Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and Shinui parties command 10 parliament seats and had earlier committed themselves to helping Labour put together a government.

Peres spoke, a day after he failed to pick up a crucial endorsement from Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the spiritual leader of two small ultra-orthodox religious parties. Labour needs the parties' support, as well as the left-wing factions, to secure a majority in the 120-member parliament.

Kibbutzim are held in high esteem in Israeli society for their history of settling and defending the country. But in his speech Monday night, Schach bitterly accused the communal farms of abandoning Judaism.

"There are Kibbutzim that don't know what Yom Kippur is or the Sabbath ... and they raise (non-kosher) rabbits and pigs," Schach said Monday night. "Do they have any links with their forefathers?"

Peres on Tuesday defended the Kibbutzim, who constitute the core of Labour support, but refrained from criticising Schach in an apparent effort not to alienate the rabbi.

"This is not the sum total of what the Kibbutzim have done in this country," Peres said, referring to Schach's remarks. "They built the land, they settled it ... they spilled their blood for this country."

Incensed Israeli leftists protested yesterday at Schach's criticism of secular Jews and sharply attacked the religious establishment.

Yossi Sarid of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement argued that ultra-orthodox Jews, most of whom are exempt from army service, have done little for Israel.

■ Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was quoted today as appealing for the rise of an Israeli leader with the courage of France's Gen. Charles de Gaulle to work out a settlement to the Palestinian problem.

"We are offering the peace of the brave. Is there a De Gaulle or an Ian Smith in Israel?" Arafat asked in an interview published in the Saudi Arabian newspaper Ashraq Al Awsat.

■ Foreign Minister Moshe Arens sidestepped a plea by Lithuania's president calling on Israel to open diplomatic relations and said the country would not interfere in internal Soviet affairs.

Call to monitor Jewish settling

UNITED NATIONS, March 28, (UPI): Egypt asked the UN Security Council yesterday to monitor the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israeli-occupied territories while other Arab countries condemned the practice.

Egypt's UN Ambassador Amr Moussa and the delegates from Tunisia, Yemen, Syria and Saudi Arabia addressed the Security Council on the wake of the Soviet Union's decision to cancel direct flights for those seeking emigration to Israel.

Moussa said his government is appealing to Israel to adopt a "constructive stand" on its conflict with Palestinians.

"I call upon Israel to terminate any settlement activities in the occupied territories including Jerusalem," Moussa said.

He said the Security Council should declare the settlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza an "illegal act and an obstacle to peace."

The delegates from Yemen and Syria accused Israel and the United States of denying the Soviet Jews their rights to settle in a country of their choice.

The Council held a first meeting on the issue March 15 at the request of the Soviet Union, which was under pressure from Arab governments to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Those governments charged that Soviet Jews were taking over Palestinian lands.

Chusa, in its first brief speech on the issue, did not mention the Soviet Union by name but condemned Israel. Ambassador Li Luyue called Israel's actions intransigent and contrary "to the prevailing tide in the world scene."

He said Israel had "rejected the international Middle East conference on the one hand and refused dialogue and talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the other, thus making it impossible to achieve any substantive progress."

New Algerian party: An Islamic fundamentalist party called Hezbollah will soon seek recognition from the Algerian Interior Ministry, the Algerian news agency APS said yesterday.

It quoted a press statement from party leader Djamel Eddine Bardie as saying the party drew inspiration from the Holy Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and would "apply the justice of God among men."

Assad to visit Moscow: Syrian President Hafez Assad will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union during the next few weeks, informed diplomatic sources in Moscow disclosed.

The sources told Kuna that President Assad's visit to Moscow comes at the invitation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and will take place in the first half of next April. (Kuna)

Mosque blast probe: Police said they were studying a note left at a mosque for new clues after unknown persons blasted its entrance three days ago. Cypriot Interior Minister Christodoulos Venizianou, who did not disclose the contents of the note, said an unexploded mortar shell was also found at the site of the attack against the Omerie Mosque in Nicosia. (UPI)

Khaddafi's wife in Cairo: The wife of Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi arrived in Cairo yesterday to pay her respects to the family of Egypt's late revolutionary leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, whose widow Tahya died at the age of 70 on Sunday, Cairo radio reported.

The radio did not give the name of Khaddafi's wife or any further details about her. It said Egypt's first lady, Suzanne Mubarak, welcomed her at Cairo international airport. (UPI)

Jordan Parliament adjourns: Jordan's new Parliament went into recess yesterday after four months in which it consolidated democratic changes but disappointed voters who believed it could work economic miracles.

Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar said the assembly had asked King Hussein to convene an extraordinary session after the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, to catch up on a backlog of work on legislation. (Reuters)

Sudan, Libya merger step: Sudan and Libya have agreed the secretariat-general organising the merger of the two countries should be based in Libya but the secretary-general should be a Sudanese, Khartoum newspapers said today.

The army newspaper Guwat Al Mussallah quoted Colonel Mohamed Al Amin Khalifa, a member of Sudan's 15-man ruling military junta, as saying the agreement reached on Monday laid down that the Sudanese secretary-general would be chosen jointly. (Reuters)

US war games off Libya: The Pentagon confirmed yesterday that US navy ships are conducting what it called routine exercises in the Mediterranean not far from the Gulf of Sidra, off the Libyan coast.

The Pentagon said there are 23 ships involved in the exercise, which is labelled "Week 90-3." The Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall said the 23 ships are all part of the Eisenhower and Forrestal battle groups. (Kuna)

PLO gives US protest: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has protested to Washington at a US senate resolution recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The PLO gave the US ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, a protest note on Monday describing the resolution as irresponsible, a violation of international law and a threat to regional security, the PLO news agency Wafa said. (Reuters)

Japan offered to help free hostages: Japan once volunteered to give Iran and Syria \$60 million in economic aid if those countries would use their influence to help release American hostages in Lebanon, a former White House official told Reuters Service.

Then-president Ronald Reagan of the US reportedly agreed with enthusiasm to the deal in June 1985. It fell through because Iran and Syria rejected the Japanese offer on the grounds they had no influence over the captors, said the former official. (AP)

Iran hangs two for spying: Two men convicted of spying, theft and "counter-revolutionary activities" were hanged today in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, identified the two as Abbas Raisi and Ahmad Janghi Rzaei. (AP)

Libya denies hand in Chad

CAIRO, March 28, (UPI): Libya yesterday denied that it carried out armed assaults against a number of locations along the Chad-Sudanese border. Tripoli radio reported.

The state-owned radio quoted a spokesman for the Libyan Foreign Ministry as saying Libya had nothing to do with the conflict between the Chad government and Chad rebels.

"Libya has nothing to do with the current fighting between the Chad government and Chad rebel forces," the radio quoted the spokesman as

saying. Reports reaching Paris yesterday said heavy fighting had broken out along the Chad-Sudan border between troops loyal to Chadian President Hissen Habre and Rebel soldiers.

Other reports said that cash-strapped Sudan, which has been moving toward greater unity recently with its oil-rich neighbour Libya, may have facilitated the movement of rebel troops, Libyan soldiers and military hardware to Chad from Sudan.

Arabs fear many of the Soviet Jews will settle in the occupied territories where Palestinians demand their own state.

"Doors for immigration have been closed in the US," Arafat alleged, blaming the "international Zionist movement" for the Soviet Jewish migration.

"Now there's a massive transfer of them from one place to another, which is against human rights."

Arafat today left for Calcutta in West Bengal state after holding talks with Indian leader.

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Seema Faruqi



Pakeezah Shahid

Iqbal slams regression of contemporary Pakistani thought

Seminar marks golden jubilee of Pak Resolution

By Fatima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

PAKISTAN'S former chief justice Dr Javed Iqbal has expressed regret over his country's disregard for ideals of poet-philosopher Allama Iqbal and Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

"Unfortunately, ever since the establishment of Pakistan, we have gone farther and farther astray from the ideals of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah," he told a seminar marking the golden jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on March 25.

He said: "Instead of evolving a democratic polity, we have been afflicted with successive military dictatorships: instead of integrating ourselves into a single multi-cultural community

through a liberal, forward looking and reformist interpretation of Islam, we fell into the trap of intolerant, conservative and backward-looking religio-political fundamentalists and have broken ourselves up into groups and nationalities on ethnic, linguistic or regional basis."

Squabbles

Dr Iqbal said his country was suffering poverty, a high rate of illiteracy, unemployment and inadequate industrialisation. He implied that Pakistanis, instead of looking at the wider issues facing the nation, were involved in petty squabbles. "But we continue to fight over distribution of river waters as though we are inhabitants of different countries," he said and asked: "Therefore, the big question requiring an answer is, as to who

is going to realise Iqbal's philosophical vision of bringing into being, in Pakistan, a new integrated, democratic, tolerant, liberal, reformist, creative and innovative Muslim society?"

The seminar, organised by the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) was also addressed by speakers Mrs Nasira Iqbal, wife of Dr Javed, Seema Faruqi, Abdul Sattar Ghazali, Mohsin Siddiqui, Anwar Sanaullah, Iqbal Latif and Obaid-ur-Rahman.

The speakers seemed to be in a reflective mood and discussed the shortcomings and what they thought could be done to build their nation.

Nasira Iqbal said the founders of Pakistan, Iqbal and Jinnah, were progressive thinkers who believed that no nation could



Dr Javed Iqbal
progress without the active participation of its women. On this

basis, women had pinned great hopes on Pakistan to "provide them a status equal to men."

Nasira Iqbal said that although women are given a high status by law, their actual participation and productivity in national life is constrained. Female literacy is 16 per cent; customs such as dowry, child marriage and social stigma on divorce are widely prevalent; women are still deprived of their due share of inheritance and crimes against women are rising partly due to portrayal of women as sex objects in movies and advertising.

Discrimination

"Accidental deaths by gas stove explosions appear ominously influenced by bride burning across the border," she said. The unilateral imposition of

discriminatory laws as the Zina Ordinance has led to an increase in the number of women prisoners; and sex discrimination exists, she added.

Nasira Iqbal, who has been actively involved with women's movements in Pakistan, admits that improving the status of women is not an "easy task" but stressed that it was "imperative for the future development of our country."

Seema Faruqi spoke about a "nation torn with communal hatred with no basic platform" for interpretation of faith and a lack of discipline amongst society and "everyone working for his own selfish ends; bureaucracy and corruption are the order of the day and the social order is in shambles and the young generation is manipulated for political means."

Seema said the leaders are powerless to "control the masses;" and said some "soul-searching" was required in order to fight the forces of evil.

Another speaker, Iqbal Latif debated the principles of "unity in diversity." Other speakers included Abdul Sattar Ghazali, Anwar Sanaullah, Mohsin Siddiqui and Obaid-ur-Rahman.

Obaid-ur-Rahman referring to the aims and objectives of their organisation, Approb said it has "immense potential which needs to be exploited."

Pessimism

"We shall remove the shroud of pessimism and feelings of hatred among communities and work for the common cause of Pakistan and greater unity," he said.

Obaid-ur-Rahman said they hope to lay the foundation of a community centre for overseas Pakistanis in Kuwait and when it is built, they will name it the Allama Iqbal Cultural Centre.

Approb received messages from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Benazir urged the association to "instil in all Pakistanis the values that are a necessary pre-requisite for the successful functioning of a democratic order."

Most speakers dwelt on the history of the Pakistan Resolution once too often: some speakers focussed on certain aspects of the question of nationalism in Pakistan.

A 15-minute question and answer session was organised at the end of the seminar, which was attended by over 400 people.

Kuwait social benefits continue

KUWAIT, March 28. (Reuters): "I had a British girlfriend here who had a nose job absolutely free," says a foreign resident of the Gulf State of Kuwait.

"When I first arrived I could not make a call at the airport, because the coin slot was blocked," says an Egyptian traveller. "I later found out local calls were free."

Outsiders are endlessly amazed by the sweeping range of benefits and services this northern Gulf state extends to its 700,000 citizens, 1.3 million non-Kuwaiti residents and even passing travellers.

Tourists or visiting businessmen can check in at any state hospital and receive free treatment, medication, even surgery. "My mother-in-law is diabetic. Everyday two nurses come to the house to give her an insulin injection for free," says a Jordanian who has worked in Kuwait more than 20 years.

Another expatriate chimes in: "It's even better if you are a Kuwaiti."

Some of Kuwait's neighbours had to reduce social benefits when oil prices crashed in the mid-1980s. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, tried to impose taxes in 1988 but scrapped the plan after expatriates threatened to quit.

But the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, raised grants and loans this month for newly-arrived Kuwaitis — part of an effort launched in 1986 to boost the proportion of Kuwaitis in the population to half by the turn of the century.

The couples now get a \$3,400 grant and a \$6,800 soft loan.

Kuwaitis, who enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, can also buy a piece of land at a token price and take a \$186,000 soft loan to build a house, or apply for a government-built flat.

The Savings and Credit bank last year paid Kuwaiti couples some 106 million dinars (\$366 million) marriage and housing loans and grants.

Measuring 17,818 square km (6,880 square miles), Kuwait produces about 1.9 million barrels of oil per day and officials say reserves of about 92 billion barrels could last another 150 years.

In spite of agitation in recent months for the return of an elected parliament, Western diplomats say living standards funded by oil wealth keep most Kuwaitis politically content.

A Kuwaiti taxi driver says: "The government gives us everything. I do not know why these people are making all this noise." "They have too much at stake to rock the boat," a diplomat commented.

The state does not collect taxes, but the Public Authority for Social Security takes about five per cent of salaries from Kuwaiti employees and eight per cent from employers in return for a handsome pension.



Approb dinner

Approb invited a high ranking Pakistani official delegation to the residence of Iqbal Latif for dinner. The delegation included chairman Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan, director PIA, chairman of Red Crescent Sind, additional secretary Ministry of Commerce, and charges d'affaires and commercial secretary of Pakistan embassy. The photograph shows Approb members with the delegates.

Parallel mobile phone company a possibility

Project may be floated in '91

THE Chairman of Mobile Telephones Company Abdullah Al Sabaj was quoted as saying that the company is seriously contemplating allowing another company to sell the mobile telephones provided the company should have proven capability for undertaking the necessary maintenance.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that such a suggestion is currently under discussion and the necessary regulations will be set up soon in a prelude to float the project in the local market at the outset of next year.

Meanwhile, Sabaj said that the new telephone exchange which cost about KD13 million will be commissioned during March of next year. The new exchange will alleviate the pressure facing the current one, the official said and added that the new system comprises 34 stations. With this number, mobile telephone stations in the country will total 68 distributed in several areas.

Capacity

Speaking of telephone lines being continually engaged, the official said that this was at specific times only and this could be attributed to the calls movement which was exceeding the capacity of the exchange.

He added that the halt of selling mobile telephone service will not constitute a solution at all as long as some subscribers still misuse the telephone apparatuses. He clarified that the company has no right to confiscate citizens rights to benefit from

such a service.

Meanwhile, the chairman disclosed that the company is planning to reduce the subscription fees in the future and will revise the current tariff.

Subscription

He clarified that by the end of this year the subscription fees will be reduced to KD25 for those whose monthly calls were less than 400 minutes and will reduce the subscription fees to KD15 for subscribers whose calls were less than 500 minutes per month. He pointed out that such a measure is to be taken to encourage the rationalisation of telephone calls.

He added that the roving services connected Kuwait and United Arab Emirates and Bahrain was constituting no additional pressure on the exchange as only 20 apparatuses were entering the country per month from these countries.

Speaking of the pager service extended by the company, Sabaj said that about 9,000 apparatuses of this system had been distributed so far and the company is planning to distribute another 7,000 in the near future. The official said this system will be expanded four fold.

Meanwhile, the official had denied that there was a pager which can pick up the telephone numbers, clarifying that this type of pager contradicts with the Ministry of Communication system. He clarified that the company was previously planning to adopt this system but abandoned it.

Egyptian ban on Palestinians denied

THE consul-general of Egypt in Kuwait Al Saed Sultan has denied rumours about an Egyptian government ban on the entry of Palestinian citizens or Palestinian holders of Egyptian travel documents.

He told a local daily that entry bans were issued for individual cases relating to the circumstances or security

considerations for certain people.

He expressed his country's open-door policy, and its readiness to receive more and more tourists this summer, adding that Arab citizens have the right to stay in Egypt and work. However, this required the consent and official approval of relevant government authorities.

He stressed that Arabs who can deposit sums in the amount of \$50,000 will have the right to permanent residence in the country and will enjoy the advantage associated with deposits made in hard currencies.

He pointed out that the Kuwaitis and Palestinians form the greater number of Arabs living in Egypt and enjoy the right to ownership.

Shortage of seats in private schools

PRIVATE schools have been experiencing a shortage of seats for pupils of the first class at the intermediate stage, according to a reliable source at the Ministry of Education.

He said that about 5,200 pupils out of 7,200 presently studying in the 4th class of the primary stage will not be able to continue their education in the intermediate stage next scholastic year, if the ministry of education does not take the initiative to urgently address adequate seats for these pupils at private schools.

Seats available for the 1st intermediate class in private schools do not exceed 2,000 at boys schools and some private schools have been obliged to use some of their utilities and transfer them into classrooms on a makeshift basis.

Aggravation

The crisis has been attributed to the non-availability of school buildings which would accommodate the increasing number of pupils at the intermediate stage, coupled with the shortage in administrative and teaching staff at private schools. Male teachers refuse to work in private schools and the lack of teacher problem has been further aggravated by the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in issuing fresh work permits for this category of employees.

The sources stressed on the needs to approve a draft law for the distribution of 28 allotments of land for private sector usages.

Consumers bemoan high medicine cost

Currency fluctuation blamed

CONSUMERS in Kuwait are being victimised by the spiralling prices of commodities and have complained that though they can bear with the pressure in the increase of most commodities, they categorically rejected the increase in the prices of medicines.

The unified pricing for medicines is still a pending issue, waiting to be implemented. The medicine price unification among pharmacies in Kuwait was introduced by the Ministry of Public Health quite some time back and pharmacists had jointly agreed upon the unification of prices.

Pharmacists had considered this step to be vital to prevent monopoly being resorted to by merchants in the medicines sector.

A local daily interviewed a number of officials and a number of residents to obtain an overview on the situation.

Director of the Medicine Control Centre at the Ministry of Public Health Issa Al Khaleefa spoke of the role played by the centre by saying that the centre is held responsible for the safety of medicines and their effectiveness towards treatment. The centre carries full scientific, technical and political responsibility to ensure the safety of consumers.

The centre's activities briefly include registration of new medicines after approvals received on their validity, and conducting tests at government hospitals to prove the validity of any medicines.

He indicated that other activities cover withdrawing

medicines from the market which proves to have any side-effects in addition to "the cancellation of some medicines and replacing them with other more modern formulas."

The centre takes the full responsibility to censor all types of medicines entering the country and uses the most modern devices in carrying out analysis on these medicines. He said that these requirements and activities have called for the centre with well qualified and experienced technicians.

Law

With respect to medicine price unification at private pharmacies, he pointed out that the ministry already has a clear idea about the rise in medicine prices, the reason a special law was issued to follow up this problem.

He added that a special committee was formed to put restrictions on medicine prices and indicated that the project is currently in its final stages. The only problem which kept the law of prices unification from implementation at a faster rate is the large fluctuations of currencies against the Kuwaiti dinar. He said that the unification of prices will therefore consider the interest of consumers and medicine agents at the same time.

Meanwhile, Aheda Melhem, a teacher stated that she regularly goes to pharmacies in order to buy cosmetics or at times when she needs medicine. She pointed out that prices are high, the reason she deducts KD10 per month from her salary for that purpose. She pointed out that she

prefers buying foreign medicines because they have more potent effects.

Fluctuation

Bayes Ahmad Abdul Rahman said that he only buys medicines from private pharmacies when he is unable to find a replacement at government pharmacies, a clinics and hospitals. He added that most medicines are high in prices and indicated that he does not see any difference between imported and locally made medicines.

Salwa Hassan stated that she has noticed large fluctuations among medicines prices at different private pharmacies. She said that the price of medicines are not high if compared with the standard of living in Kuwait. She added that any medicines permitted to enter the market are put through long tests in addition to other costs of importation and commissions.

Farooq Hamed a pharmacist agreed with all other interviewed pharmacists by saying that the prices of medicines are high adding that this was due to various factors namely that Kuwait population is small compared to other neighbouring states and that the per capita income is high which directly reflects on all prices in general. He explained that the unification of prices is recommended by all other pharmacists. He added that it is impossible for prices to go down due to the fact that such prices depend on imported medicines which occupy nearly 90 per cent of all the contents of pharmacies in Kuwait.



Academy farewell

Officers at the General Administration of the Police Academy held a farewell party in honour of the 18th batch of student officers. Director of the academy, Brig. Khaled Al Munayes attended the party. Picture shows all the graduating officers.

Jewish emigration **Issue exaggerated, says Soviet visitor**

among old Kuwaiti traditions.

Khorafi said that he is optimistic on the level of reduction of the deficit of the state budget this year. But, he commented that this improvement is connected with changeable incomes depending on oil prices. However, he was optimistic that the state budget will register an improvement of national incomes.

Commenting on the withdrawal of Kuwait from the Council of Arab Economic Unity, he said that Kuwait's decision was taken as a result of the council becoming paralysed and unable to perform its missions that are also similar to missions of the Arab Economic

Task

The official specifically pointed out that Kuwait will not call for assets or financial rights from the council it has withdrawn from. He also rejected statements that Kuwait's withdrawal is a step to dissolve the council and added that Kuwait alone cannot decide in this issue. He commented that the two councils should be merged to avoid duplication of missions.

Commenting on the establishment of an Arab Common Market, similar to the EEC, the minister said that the situations of the Arab states differ from those of European countries and this makes the

work of unification that much more difficult. Though it is difficult to establish a common Arab market at the present time, the Arab Co-operation councils could be considered a step in the right direction in the future.

On the other hand, Khorafi said that the ministry encourages agriculture and afforestation in different areas. Speaking on the recent fines of KD1,000 against owners of chalets who planted the areas out of limits of their chalets, the official said that afforestation should be undertaken within the limits of respective chalets and after obtaining prior approval from relevant authorities.

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

Their ultimate aim though is to produce the Kuwaiti of the 21st century, a man who, as one official recently told me, loves to work with his hands, who works for work's sake, and who thinks not only of himself but the community as well.

Farewell Sirkal

Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Hans Longva, ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to Kuwait, hosted a farewell reception for Yusef Abdul Latif Al Sirkal, ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates who is leaving Kuwait. The reception which was attended by a number of diplomats was held at the Sheraton recently.

Sources said that these people have been confirmed captured by some foreign country. Official and diplomatic efforts are being exerted to retrieve them.

He stressed that Kuwait depended on three elements in its cultural and economic development and they were the inclusion of women in any process, establishment of a flourishing mass media and developing a competitive educational system.

He indicated that the touristic route operating along the waterfront will run starting from 8:00 pm until midnight.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom — Francis Bacon, English writer (1561-1626).

Differences patched Libya acts as go-between

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): Talks in Libya between Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria have sealed the end to a 12-year rift, bringing diplomatic gains for both countries.

The one-hour meeting took place late Saturday during a ceremony at Tobruk marking the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces from Libya.

The history of relations between Syria and Egypt is a stormy one. The two countries were joined for three years as the United Arab Republic with Gamal Abdel Nasser as head of state, but the union broke down in acrimony in 1961.

Rapprochement

The rapprochement has been a long time in coming.

Diplomatic relations were resumed last December. Ties had been broken a month after the late Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, flew to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 to begin the process that led to the Camp David peace treaty two years later, the only such pact between Israel and an Arab country.

A Western diplomat in Damascus attributed the move largely to Assad's desire to escape from diplomatic isolation after Egypt was readmitted to the Arab League last May and other Arab nations resumed diplomatic ties.

But the diplomat, who like other sources in Damascus insisted on anonymity, said the move also presented opportunities for the 59-year-old Syrian President to persuade fellow Arab leaders to follow his firm line toward Israel.

By meeting Mubarak, Assad has shown once again that he is a master of manoeuvre in the Arab world, limiting his losses by joining the Arab mainstream without abandoning his cherished hardline policies, diplomats said.

For Mubarak, the reconciliation with Assad is a bid to pay off his cautious policy of acting as a



Hafez Al Assad

go-between between Israel, the United States and Palestinians on the one hand while working to improve Cairo's relations with other Arab nations on the other.

Syria is the most implacable enemy of the Jewish state and Assad has vowed to continue building up his forces until he reaches "strategic parity" with Israel so the Arab world can negotiate from a position of strength.

But the Soviet Union, preoccupied with internal affairs and economic problems, has told Syria that the parity concept is no longer tenable and said Damascus, a major Soviet client, should only purchase the weapons it needs for its defensive needs.

Syrian and Soviet military leaders have agreed to the withdrawal from Syria of an undisclosed number of Soviet military instructors, an informed Syrian source said.

Meanwhile, ties between the Soviet Union and Israel have slowly improved. The two countries have set up modest representation in each other's capitals and are exchanging low-level visits.

Earlier this month Assad expressed his dismay, saying the changes sweeping East Europe were a boon to Israel as the formerly communist countries dropped their hostility to the Jewish state.

Syria is at odds with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat and has rejected his peace initiative toward Israel, which is strongly backed by Egypt and the United States.

There is no sign yet that Assad is cutting support for Damascus-based, anti-Arafat radical Palestinian factions, which for their part have been fostering relations with Iran — just in case.

But Assad appears to want inclusion, at least indirectly, in the current process involving Egypt, the PLO, the United States and Israel aimed at holding elections leading to some autonomy for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Former US president Jimmy Carter said after a meeting with Assad earlier this month that Syria is ready for bilateral talks with Israel if they include the Golan Heights, taken by Israel from Syria after the 1967 war.

Egyptian officials in Cairo said they expect solid, but not too close, relations with Syria in view of Egypt's close ties with Iraq, Syria's arch-rival in the Arab world, as well as Mubarak's customary caution.

A meeting between the two leaders after December's resumption of diplomatic ties was originally expected to take place in Syria. There were several Syrian reports of an imminent Damascus meeting.

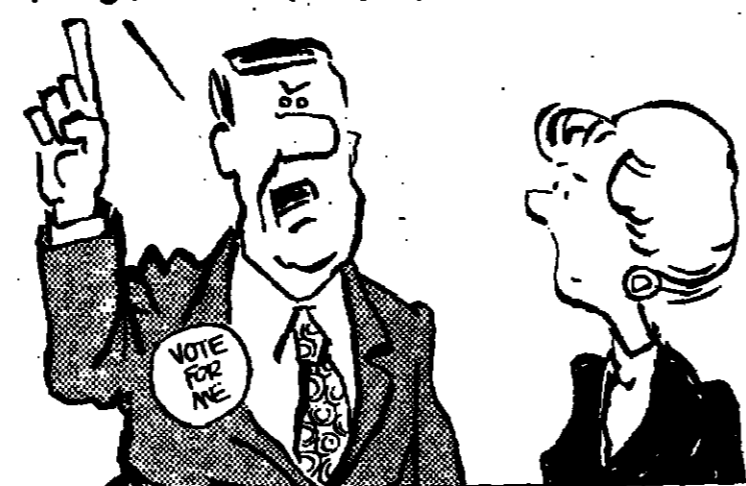
Diplomats in Damascus said the Egyptian President would like to act as a matchmaker between Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Intensifying the feud between the Iraqi and Syrian wings of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, ruling in both countries, Baghdad has supplied weapons to Lebanon's anti-Syrian Christian leader, Gen. Michel Aoun, thwarting Assad's effort to impose a pax Syria on its war-torn neighbour.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1629 — Edict of restitution of church property in Germany, whereby all property secularized since peace of Augsburg (1555) is restored to Catholic Church.
- 1792 — Sweden's King Gustavus III is assassinated.
- 1801 — Britain seizes Danish and Swedish islands in West Indies.
- 1830 — Spain's King Ferdinand VII passes law allowing females to be heirs to throne.
- 1849 — Britain annexes Punjab in India by treaty with Maharajah of Lahore.
- 1864 — Ionian Islands are ceded by Britain to Greece.
- 1946 — New constitution in Gold Coast, which becomes first British African colony with majority of Africans in legislature.
- 1947 — National revolt against France in Madagascar begins.
- 1951 — Chinese government rejects US offer for truce discussions in Korea.
- 1967 — France launches its first nuclear submarine.
- 1972 — Government of Bolivia orders 119 members of Soviet embassy staff to leave country — accusing embassy of financing leftist rebel movements.
- 1973 — Last American troops leave South Vietnam, ending direct military role of United States in Vietnam war.
- 1977 — US and Soviet negotiators, meeting in Moscow, agree to set up committees to seek solutions to several arms control and diplomatic problems.
- 1988 — Bomb planted in jeep kills at least four Soviets in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- 1989 — Two Czechoslovak teenagers hijack Hungarian airliner from Prague to Frankfurt in attempt to reach United States.

IF ELECTED, I WILL GET TOUGH ON CRIMINALS!



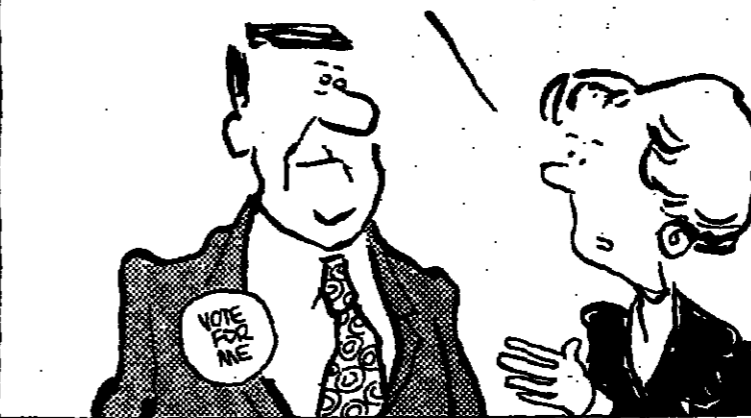
TOUGH LAWS, TOUGH ENFORCEMENT, TOUGH SENTENCES!



RAISE TAXES? THAT WOULD BE CRIMINAL!



SO YOU'LL RAISE TAXES TO PAY FOR MORE COPS, COURTS AND PRISONS?



New Air Force One due

Most expensive transport jet

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The President's new plane is still missing.

But at least it finally has a firm arrival date. And once George Bush climbs aboard, he will be able to stretch out in unprecedented airborne luxury.

Dubbed by some as "a flying Taj Mahal," the New Air Force One, now undergoing test flights, is to come on line Sept 30 as the most expensive transport jet ever produced. A backup twin is to be delivered nine months later.

Two years overdue and an estimated \$365 million over budget, the modified Boeing 747-200BS are the product of a 1986 "fixed-cost contract" of \$249 million that soared by leaps and bounds and revisions.

Stuck

Boeing, not taxpayers, got stuck with all but \$19 million of the added expense, like being forced to reroute 58 miles (93 km) of wire to guard against electromagnetic interference in a secure world-wide communication system.

There are plenty of high-tech whistles and bows on the big birds, which stand six stories high.

They include: an anti-nuclear defence system, a six-channel stereo, a state room, 85 telephones, a television system that can simultaneously broadcast eight programmes, a medical emergency room where surgery could be performed and two top-of-the-line kitchens.

With refrigerator freezers able to pack plenty of provisions for a crew of 23 and 70 passengers, the aircraft, equipped to be refuelled in flight, will be

able to stay aloft for days at a time.

"It should contain the best," said Bonnie Newman, assistant to the President for management and administration. "It does support the President and the presidency. I think the people will understand."

Design and construction of the four-engine jets at Boeing's facilities in Everett, Washington, and Wichita, Kansas, became a multi-act, high-powered drama. It included input from the Air Force, Secret Service, National Security Agency and even the First Lady's office.

And, not surprisingly, the big drive to get the President a new plane was underscored with a number of delays.

The most recent, last June, was caused when Boeing had to make changes to meet air force fire safety demands in the belly of the planes, designed to hold 6,000 pounds (2,700 kg) of luggage, all accessible during flight.

Postponement

Late last year, a 48-day labour strike at Boeing gummed up some work, although no actual postponements were attributed to it.

This past January, with everyone relatively happy, Boeing announced the new fall delivery date and began test flights in Wichita.

Boeing is proud of the aircraft, but sensitive to criticism. It refuses to disclose the final price, which sources estimate tops \$600 million, most of it forced down Boeing's corporate throat.

"I'm not going to say a word about that," said Boeing spokesman Dick Ziegler. "When the plane is done and delivered, it will be a fine product. We are

proud to have the man flying in it."

The President's staff says Bush, a former navy pilot, is anxious to ride in the new plane, and insists he isn't a bit uncomfortable about being handed such an item of opulence.

But they also stress that Bush did not ask for a new plane.

Neither did Ronald Reagan.

The air force did.

Back in 1983, the air force began campaigning for replacements for the current pair of Boeing 707s, No. 26000, on which Lyndon Johnson took the oath of office in Dallas on Nov 22, 1963, and No. 27000, first used in 1973 by Richard Nixon.

The air force complained that the 707s had become antiquated and don't even meet the pollution and noise standards of some airports.

A 707 was first used as an Air Force One by Dwight Eisenhower in 1959.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the first president to have his own plane, a propeller-powered Douglas C-54 nicknamed, "The Sacred Cow."

Through the years, Air Force One, whatever the make, has become the United States' best known plane, the President's Plane is Missing, was turned into a movie.

The new "Bush shuttle" was designed to meet the rising demands of the travelling presidents. It also seemed to be built with the idea bigger is better.

Its wing span and deck space are 195 feet (59 m) and 4,000 square feet (3,600 sq m), respectively, compared to 145 feet (44 m) and 1,260 square feet (1,135 sq m) for the existing one.

Nicaraguans dream of autonomy

PEARL LAGOON, Nicaragua, (AP): Along the grassy streets of Pearl Lagoon, on the edge of its lonely dock, in hammocks swaying in the shade, people are waiting for the revolution, a ferry boat as elusive as a campaign promise.

It sailed into Pearl Lagoon on the Sunday after Nicaragua's election, paused for an hour or so, then sailed away.

A few people rode on the 150-passenger vessel; many just heard about it. "Some people think it is progress," said Irma de Sosa, a schoolteacher who has become an authority on the subject by virtue of having ridden on the ferry during its brief visit.

"Some feel like the government is just fooling the people, that the boat won't come back," she said, spreading her hands and smiling.

Wait

"We'll just have to wait and see."

The Sandinista government had long promised Pearl Lagoon a ferry to take them and their cargo on the 30-mile run to Bluefields, the Atlantic coast's largest town and its links to the rest of the world.

But residents of this town of 1,900 have only seen the revolution once.

In many ways, the elusive ferry symbolizes the region's long fight for autonomy, and the diverse dreams it inspires.

The British and American companies that once exploited the coast's riches, the rapacious Somoza dictatorship, the Sandinistas — none of them brought prosperity to the coast, none gave it a real say in its own affairs.

The Atlantic coast, an English-speaking region, is home to only a tenth of Nicaragua's people. So isolated that it seems like another country, it is the poorest region of one of the poorest nations in the Hemisphere.

Not ashore was fired here during the 1979 revolution in which the Sandinistas took power.

More than a decade later, there is still no road connecting the region to Nicaragua's Spanish-speaking heartland on the other, Pacific coast, side of the country.

There are a couple of Toyota trucks in Pearl

Lagoon, but grass has overgrown the streets. Television broadcasts from Managua, 200 miles (322 kilometres) west, can't be received here.

Like most of the hamlets dotting the coasts and inlets of the region's rivers and coasts, Pearl Lagoon's only link to the outside world is by water.

A regular boat, a boat of its own, would mean a measure of independence, and an end to the balm measure that envelops the lagoon like a daydream.

Pearl Lagoon perches on the banks of one of Nicaragua's richest shrimp breeding grounds, on the edge of rich lobster beds. It is the kind of place that feeds the dreams of tropical entrepreneurs.

The lagoon's last success story was an enterprising businessman, remembered simply as the Chinaman, who dived and exported shrimp.

But as the Sandinistas drove the Chinaman into exile after confiscating his rice mill, his shrimp plant and his fishing boats.

The Chinaman's boats went to Bluefields, Leslie Hunsack, a 60-year-old fisherman, recalled bitterly. "It did us no good here in Pearl Lagoon."

Letters to the editor

Flights to Goa

SIR: The summer schedule of Air India shows 2 Goa operations from Bombay effective from Mar 29, '90. Goa is in Kuwait will have two options. There will be AI flight leaving on Monday nights to Goa via Bombay which allows customs clearance at Dabolim, as the flight arrives at Dabolim at 9.30 Tuesday morning.

Also, Goans here have a second option — that is they can leave Kuwait for Bombay on Wednesdays by AI flight which arrives in Bombay Thursday morning at 5.30 am and after customs clearance at Sahar/Bombay they can avail hotel facility at AI cost and board AI 154 for Goa leaving Bombay at 2 pm and arriving Dabolim at 3 pm.

The direct Goa-Kuwait AI 857 flight will leave Dabolim on Thursdays at 4.15 pm arriving in Bombay at 5.15 and passengers will be kept in-transit at Sahar for 2 hours before boarding Bmy Kwt flight at 8 pm arriving Kuwait at 9.30 pm.

The second option will help Goans who have Thursday holidays, especially the schools area and also those who like to have customs clearance at Bombay airport. There are still persistent complaints that Goa customs are harassing passengers, forcing them to open every package for inspection, which is not the case at Bombay which allows the inspection through scanning, when it is a matter of one piece baggage.

Goans would have greatly appreciated if Air India Kuwait office had released this 2 AI flights options to Goa through the local press for the benefit of the Goa passengers.

V. De Souza,
Kuwait.

Western media

SIR: This is in reference to an article which appeared in your paper on Mar 17.

Your paper also reaches Cairo, Egypt three to four days late. I hope something will be done about this.

My main topic is on the Western media's distortion of anything Islamic.

Lately the Western media is taking a lot of 'interest' in the Libyan 'chemical plant', the Iraqi missile and the hanging of Farid Bazzoff. There is definitely a reason for all these whinnies.

These so-called powers remained silent over Israel's manufacture of an atomic bomb, ballistic missiles and chemical weapons. Their 'impartial' news agencies didn't say a word about these. This implies that production of arms and weapons are the monopolies of the big powers and their cronies. Whenever an Islamic or Arab country manufactures same, there is a loud cry. Well, to that I say you can't keep us down!

Bazzoff was executed for espionage and any country in Iraq's position would have taken the same measures. Western agencies have the same goals — whatever is good for Muslims, or is in the best interest of Arabs is a crime.

If Egypt wants to produce electricity through atomic reactors it's a crime, but if Israel manufactures weapons it's a 'necessity'. What an 'impossible' logic!

We Muslims and Arabs must think (before it's too late) about how we can counteract such blatant propaganda.

Abdel Majeed Ismail,
Cairo, Egypt.

Expressing gratitude

SIR: Through your newspaper, I would like to thank the organising committee of Hyderabad's 400 years celebrations for planning such an event in Kuwait. It was through your newspaper I knew that such an event is going to take place. On further inquiry I have found out quite a few prominent Hyderabad residents in Kuwait who are putting their efforts into it.

I would like to thank Fasihuddin Chand convenor of organising committee and also Naseruddin, joint convenor of organising committee for initiating this cause. I would also like to thank A. M. S. Zakiruddin, Sikander Zaman Khan, Mukarram Khan, Dr Naidu, Jasper and the rest for voluntarily helping the organising committee to make this event a success.

I sincerely appeal to all Hyderabad community to join hands and try their best to make this event memorable. I am confident, like myself, other Hyderabad and the rest of the Indian community in Kuwait will be anxiously waiting to know the venue and dates of this event.

Mohammad Qamruddin,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Crackdown discounted

VILNIUS, USSR, (AP): Despite Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's assurances, Lithuanians keep assuming themselves will not use force to crush their independence because his reform programme would die with it.

"It would be the end of perestroika and Gorbachev's policy and his authority," said Lithuanian Premier Kazimieras Prunskas. "I don't think Gorbachev would take such a measure."

Many Western diplomats and political figures agree.

Undermine

"It would undermine his policy in Europe and perestroika and probably not even be successful," said one high-ranking Moscow diplomat, adding that in the current sphere of reform, Soviet troops might refuse to use violence against Lithuanians.

In the past week, tanks and armoured personnel carriers have rumbled through the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, and Gorbachev has issued a flurry of directives to Lithuanians, including a demand that they turn in their firearms and stop signing up for volunteer military groups.

But the Lithuanian capital has been calm throughout the political tension, and citizens interviewed on the streets expressed little fear of military action.

Gorbachev and his advisers have said they do not intend to use force in Lithuania. Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, a close adviser to Gorbachev, told reporters during his trip to Africa last week that the Soviet Union is "particularly against the use of force domestically."

But Gorbachev also has pledged to keep the Soviet Union together, and he has been unable to bend the Lithuanians with persuasion or pressure. His tough reaction to the republic's Mar 11 declaration of independence has added caution to the Lithuanians' confidence.

The Lithuanian government appealed on Thursday to the world to speak out against any possible use of force by Soviet soldiers, and early Saturday it passed a resolution that would transfer power to a diplomat in Washington in the event that the government is arrested or assaulted.

The Soviet Union "is accustomed to solving its problems, externally and internally, with the use of force," said Algimantas Cekulius, who served as a delegate to the Soviet National Parliament until independence was declared.

Lithuanian officials and Western diplomats say crushing the independence movement could wreck Gorbachev's opening to the West, including nearly completed agreements to slash nuclear weapons by 50 per cent and remove hundreds of thousands of troops from Central Europe.

Relationship

US Sen Edward M. Kennedy, arriving in Moscow on Sunday, said use of force would put Gorbachev's relationship with the United States at risk.

"There are other issues other than through discussions would have very significant and damaging implications for that relationship," he said.

On Thursday, the US Senate passed a resolution 93-0 asking the Soviet Union to stop intimidating Lithuanians and warning that use of military power "would have severe repercussions for US-Soviet relations."

"If he uses force in the Baltics, he can't maintain his current worldwide standing, and relations between the Soviet Union and others states could not remain the way they have been until now," Prunskas said.

A violent reaction also would likely cut the flow of foreign investment desperately needed by the Soviet economy.

Kremlin officials indicated last week for the first time that the economy is in such bad shape that it might need outright foreign aid, similar to the United States' Marshall Plan that helped Europe recover after World War II.

Western credits were temporarily suspended to China after that country cracked down on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square. Foreign businessmen have been reluctant to return because of uncertainty about that country's stability.

Use of force also could cause an uproar within the Soviet Union, as it did when soldiers broke up a peaceful demonstration in Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian republic, last April. Nineteen people were killed.

Crackdown

Angry hardliners want some sort of crackdown on secessionists, but reformers have thrown their support to the newly elected Lithuanian Parliament, which issued the declaration of independence.

The army also might balk if Gorbachev decided to use force in Lithuania.

In January, Soviet mothers took to the streets to protest the mobilization of their sons to restore order in Azerbaijan, a Caucasian mountain republic engaged in a bitter dispute with neighbouring Armenia. Soviet officials quickly backed down and ended the mobilization.

Weighing the costs and benefits leaves Lithuanians wondering: Why is the Kremlin waging this war of nerves?

At worst, they fear, Gorbachev could be preparing the ground for armed intervention.

At least, he is forcing Lithuania residents from the police to everyone owning a hunting gun, to take sides publicly and at personal risk.

Still, there is widespread hope the dispute will be resolved peacefully.

QUOTE ME

"It'll be kind of strange, walking around backstage in the add-on before the show. But I'm not afraid to go into the building. Luckily, it was a great night and people remember the battle of the brains and they remember our performances. People don't feel negative about it, which has helped me in my professional career." — Brian Orser, former Olympic skating champion on skating professionally.

"If the Games really represent goodwill among nations, if they represent Olympic ideals and fair play, I don't really think any self-respecting nation could participate with a people who are destroying all those ideals." — Valdas Adamkus, the official spokesman in the United States for the National Olympic Committee of Lithuania, on disruption of the Goodwill Games if the Soviet Union cracks down on Lithuania.



A scene from Mani Kaul's Siddheshwari.



Governor C. Subramaniam gives the Golden Conch to Vasudha Joshi for Voices for Bahawalpur.



Chunky Pandey: unconcerned

Mini Meet Chunky: 'It's all luck'

- Q. What went wrong with your films last year? Almost every one was a flop?
- A. Not "Mitti Aur Sona" and "Na-Insaf". Others ran just okay. But this has not affected me. People keep offering films to me. After all I was in "Tezab". If my career was shaken up, would I be on the list of "banned" stars having too many assignments?
- Q. But you did not get the big credit even in successful films?
- A. Others having a bigger better role may get more noticed. That does not mean I don't share any credit. People appreciate my work too. They talk to me or write to me.
- Q. It's said you get films due to your contacts and good relations, as well as promoting by your doctor parents having patients in the industry?
- A. See, in the film world, even a father or uncle won't cast an actor if he is not saleable. Something in you must attract the producers and your name must ring a bell with distributors. No amount of pushing will ever help.
- Q. Your heroines too are of the smaller grade like Sonam and Neelam?
- A. It's all luck. My films with Dimple and others did not do well. The teaming with Neelam clicked and people liked us. But you must know that I am doing films with Madhuri, Madhvi, Sangeeta, Amrita and Farha too.

Documentaries dilemma: needed but not wanted

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

THE documentary or short film has never been able to make its place in India. Though cinema was pioneered by short film makers and the tradition continued for many years, the feature film has dominated the scene for over seven decades. The documentary dilemma is that it's needed but not wanted. The government's Films Division makes hundreds of such films and they are compulsorily screened by every theatre. But people neither see them properly nor remember them.

That's why an international festival of these films, held in Bombay in the first week of March, failed to make any impact. About six hundred films were entered by 45 countries including India. There was a special competition section with cash prizes of rupees seven and a half lakhs and pure gold and silver coaches, for the films of last two years. The information section covered the product of five years. There were separate packages devoted to Georges Melies and John Grierson. India's contribution included a spectrum of the best shorts of the last decade, one retrospective of Sukhdev's films and another of the diploma films made by students of the Film Institute.

In addition, there were daily open forum discussions, two seminars, several press conferences, functions, exhibitions and the publication of a daily bulletin and half a dozen costly brochures. A market section was organised with 14 stalls. For the public there were daily shows of films at two commercial theatres and one art cinema.

Foreign delegates were invited with the largest of air tickets and rooms at the posh 5-star Oberoi hotel. More than sixty lakhs rupees were spent on the week-long fête.

The results? For delegates and press, the festival was ruined by sheer over-kill. Like the feature film fete, this too had too many things running at the same time. Add to this the official bungling. Programmes went awry. Films were not screened in the given order. Several movies had no subtitles and yet went on for 60 to 90 minutes. The excuse given was that some films arrived too late. But could there not be a cut-off date or should such films not be rejected? The main brochure containing full details appeared only on the sixth day. Meanwhile, people did not know which shows and films to select and how to follow what was going on.

The situation at public theatres was worse, though tickets were very low-priced. Interested people turned away, as they had no clue of which films pertained to what, which awards or honours they had won and how they were clubbed together in one show. The art cinema could collect an audience of 12 to 15 people and on the fourth day it cancelled the festival and switched over to a sexy feature film. The total collections were extremely poor. The sale of brochures was meagre. The market section had not recorded any worthwhile sales till the last day. The festival ended up in huge losses, and without even serving its main purpose.

It was a mistake to have such a huge fête at the time of assembly elections in Bombay. The attention was divided and the press coverage poor. A political undertone was reflected in the grand inaugural at

Tata Theatre, attended by vice-president of India, chief minister of Maharashtra and governor of Bombay. The Janata government's Information Minister P. Upendra congratulated C.M. Sharad Pawar for winning the elections for Congress-I. He also spoke on the same lines. The vice-president had to snub them. A political hue of another kind was seen at the concluding awards function, held in the morning (for the sake of some V.I.P.) even before all the films got screened.

The film getting the top non-fiction short film award was *Voices From Bahawalpur* made by Vasudha Joshi and Ranjan Palit. It criticised and lampooned the former Rajiv Gandhi government for trying to build a missile testing range on a prospering rural area. This could be shown because that government is not in power and the award would be a boost for the new ruling party. The Soviet film *Black Square* getting the second big award was in glorification of "perestroika" for art and culture and condemnation of previous suppression. The same was the case with *Dreams From China* and also *In Memory of Friends* on the Punjab political jumble. The only ones awarded for cinematic value were *Udel* (Czech) and *Tin Toy* (USA).

The opening function had two films which were not entered in the fête at all. *India Through the Looking Glass* tried to look at too many things, starting from a factually wrong history of short films and some faked shots of pioneers at work. Mani Kaul's *Siddheshwari* on the classical Thumri singer was slow and abstract. At the Calcutta festival, it had already raised a dispute of whether it is a documentary or feature film.

The authorities should realise the basic

truth that there is no documentary habit in India and people consider the short film to be a nuisance. When it ends they clap loudly, so that the feature film can start. A big reason for this is the poor quality of news-reels and documentaries by the monopolistic Films Division, which has to lean on government propaganda. Independently made shorts have also to be approved and distributed by F.D. if they are to be seen by the public. Otherwise there are no outlets. Commercial distributors and theatre owners don't touch them with a barge-pole. The censors give them a lot of trouble.

Many such interesting and thought-provoking documentaries have been languishing in the cans. The recent case was of Anand Patwardhan's *Hamara Shahar* on demolition of slums. No political party has ever thought of giving autonomy to F.D. What is the use of the division itself voicing criticism and then sleeping over it? The festival inaugural film *India Through the Looking Glass* carried many protests against it and this was shown to save face and give a facade of freedom of expression. But if no change or reform is brought, it is a futile exercise.

Some Indian entries at the fête showed the routine drab attitude. *Sohrab Modi*, a bio-pic of the great producer-director-actor showed only his rise but not his fall. The interview with him in broken language shattered the illusion of Modi having mastery over Urdu. There were also errors, like "Atma Tarang" being his first film under Minerva banner. Other films did not hold interest. Just like Indian art films, some documentaries have won awards at home and in foreign festivals. But the large mass of cinegoers are hardly aware of them.



Star Salman with father Salim Khan: family actor discovered



Pooja Bedi with Nari Hira: career of marriage

Behind the screen

● Rekha surprised everybody by hitting the front-page with the news of her overnight marriage to businessman Mukesh Agarwal. The follow-up stories showed that the groom was balding and did not want to get photographed, not alone at least. But poor Rekha had to spend her honeymoon days in the Esplanade court for an income-tax case. The magistrate later said she should have made an appeal of being "just married". After that the new pair flew off for a holiday, (this being Rekha's fourth or fifth wedding). Some have dismissed it as Rekha's publicity stunt for her new release *Bahurani*, in which she plays a *dulhan* or new bride, and her husband's name is Amit (guess who?)

● Pooja Bedi should make up her mind whether she wants to have a career or a man (if not hubby), to be an actress and model or a wife and mother. She has the producers all tied up in knots whether to sign her or not. And on top of that, she has a cookie face and doubtful acting talent.

● Nana Patekar is growing too big for his boots, as actor and back-seat director. Formerly he always talked of simple living and small tenements. Now he dreams of production, big money, bungalows, Dimple as heroine, and Deepthi or Raakhee as companions in addition to his wife.

● When Salman Khan was a mere assistant director, nobody thought much of him as an actor or hero, what with his typical Khan, writer and former hero of just one or two films, ridiculed his acting ambition and told him to learn direction. But now his hulk has paid off in one apt film *Maine Pyar Kiya* and producers are running after him. So Salim has promptly joined the race and launched his own production with son as hero. He also keeps repeating that his Prince Salman was always a good looking and had sparks of acting from the time he did not know how to brush his teeth.

● Jaya Prada's much-boasted brother Raja Babu whom she calls a *big actor* in the south has been in true colours, in a dubbed Hindi version. He has appeared "in and as" the romantic playboy of a sex flick *Jawan-i-Maan*. That too opposite six "sex bombs" as heroines, also called "crazy girls".

● Farha's lover, Dara Singh's son Vindoo has proved smarter than the fiery actress. Instead of going crazy for her, he makes her run after him and dangles the carrot of marriage. Perhaps, he can foresee his fate as a husband a few years hence.

Star Slips

Shatrughan Sinha: "If the authorities questioned Amitabh during the Congress-I regime, then it must be about his films, his heroines and about Rekha." Jishi Chawla: "Big banners are not that important, considering that so many of them are flopping these days." Rishi Kapoor: "The only three heroines in my career with whom I enjoyed working are Farida Jalal, Padmini Kolhapure and Sri Devi." (Note: He forgets wife Neetu Singh.) Sonam: "I am the worst dancer in the industry. If Poonam Dhillon and I were to dance together, then Poonam would look as if she was Sri Devi." Mithun: "Can you believe, I spent seventy lakhs on Shilpa Shirodkar." Mumtaz: "In my struggling days, every actor refused to accept me as heroine, even Shashi Kapoor and Dharam. Only Rajesh Khanna and Sanjay Khan were willing."

Who is the uninvited ghost in the snapshot?



Christine Eastell's snapshot of her nephew Joe Butler in the ancient grounds at St Peter's Church which seems to show an apparition of a woman on the gravestone.

CHRISTINE Eastell got a shock when she had some wedding photographs developed... and discovered an uninvited guest in the background of one.

Now Christine, 32, is convinced the snapshot of her nephew, three-year-old page-boy Joe Butler also features the ghostly figure of a woman clutching a baby.

Christine, who lives in Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, told me: "I didn't really believe in ghosts before. But after seeing that photograph, I don't really know now. The image is very clear."

The picture, taken at the wedding of one of Christine's in-laws last October, was snapped in front of an old gravestone in the ancient grounds of St Peter's Church and seems to show an apparition of a woman on the gravestone.

Christine told me: "It was my father who pointed out the figure when the photograph was developed. And when I looked at it closely, I saw the figure of a woman. It is not scary but it is all very strange."

"I went back and had a look at the gravestone after I saw the picture. It is a gentleman's grave. And it seems a bit of a coincidence that the name on the grave is Joseph — the same as my father and my nephew, who is in the picture."

My nephew is called Joe. And the name on the grave is Joseph, which is also my dad's name. The full name on the grave is Joseph Watts.

"I don't know who he was. The grave is from the 1860's, I think. And it is the only white gravestone in the churchyard which dates back to 900 AD. All the others are black."

Christine confessed: "I don't know what to make of the picture. I just can't explain it. I suppose it could be a trick of the light — but the image on the gravestone is so clear."

"When I look at it sometimes, I think I see another little face at the bottom. But you can clearly see that lady holding the baby. People are fascinated when I show them. Like me, they don't believe it until they see it."

The apparition is a dream come true for local historian and poet Benny Wilkinson, who has always felt the village should have its own ghost.

"In fact, I advertised in the local paper for a ghost to brighten up Conisbrough about three years ago but I didn't get any replies."

"I thought the character of the town was such that we ought to have a ghost. Although nothing

happened when I advertised, since Christine took this photograph there have been a number of occurrences. And suddenly the ghosts in the town have started to come to life!"

Benny revealed: "The keeper at the castle in Conisbrough has heard voices since the picture was taken in the nearby churchyard. And people have been walking around on a Sunday afternoon and suddenly felt a very cold presence in the vicinity."

"They couldn't explain it. It was just this one patch of about 20 or 30 yards that was absolutely freezing cold."

Another villager complained of a knocking noise behind him as he strolled around the 11th century castle. He later found that a man with a wooden leg had been hung in that area!

Benny told me: "Another sighting was at the sweet factory where a young girl was boiling sweets. She turned round and there was a chap looking at her. She didn't know who he was and when she turned round again, he was gone."

"It appears that a man of that description had hung himself 20 years earlier in that factory. And it is very near the church and the castle."

In the past few months the guardian of the castle has complained of a woman weeping and screaming. Thinking someone had been locked inside the castle overnight, he searched but found nothing. "It left him cold," said Benny.

"And the man who lives near the chapel ended up in hospital after one incident. His house is very old and one night the doors were banging closed on their own. He came out to investigate and there was a young girl on the landing and he panicked and fell off the landing!"

"It put him in hospital. He is all right now but he said it was a really frightening experience. I questioned others in the house and they said there had been a lot of odd things happening. "The whole town is talking about it."

Benny says that, when he first saw Christine's photo, he didn't look at the little boy. "I looked straight at the gravestone," he said. "The image is there glaring out at you."

"Everyone who has the photograph has different ideas about the figure. Some say she is a modern lady and others say she's an Edwardian lady in a crinoline dress. One of my nephews says there is a man standing at her side."

Blues styles

Rock

DELBERT McCClinton, *I'm With You* (Curb Records, D4-77252)
The rap against Delbert McCClinton has always been that his records just don't quite capture the excitement and pure-d roadhouse flavour that you would get at a live Delbert show at one of those highly disreputable bucket-of-blood dives out on the Jacksboro highway back in McCClinton's hometown of Fort Worth, Texas.

But with this album, McCClinton goes a long way toward nullifying that canard. One big reason is the punchy horn section he has behind him and another is the bluesy guitar of Anson Funderburgh. But what really makes "I'm With You" take off are the emotion and jump that McCClinton puts into his vocals.

McCClinton has always sung like a redneck Otis Redding and the soul flows freely throughout these 10 honky-tonky love songs.

That's The Way I Feel is an up-tempo rocker punctuated by the horns and *I Want To Love You* is a nice tear-jerker but *Crazy 'Bout You, Who's Foolin' Who* and *The Real Thing* best capture McCClinton's Fort Worth funkiness.

But is that really a synthesizer that can be heard bleeding through, especially on the title cut? A synthesizer wouldn't go over very well at all on the old Jacksboro Highway.

Classical
Emmanuel Ax, *Claude Bolling, Sonatas For Two Pianos* (CBS, 45646)
Claude Bolling composes music featuring his own piano and the instrument of a famous classical musician. Yo-Yo Ma, Andres Segovia and Jean-Pierre Rampal have all starred in Bolling suites.

Bolling borrows licks from fascinating sources. His saccharine *Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano* with pinchas Zukerman had the same beginning as Alban Berg's *Adagio for Violin and Piano*, an atonal work.

This time the instrumentation is different. ("Hey, Panky, We Won't Be Needing Your Fiddle This Time, Yo, Yo, Yo, Leave Your Ax At Home Too") This time Emmanuel Ax is the guest, and he plays the same instrument bolling does. So we get a pair of *Sonatas For Two Pianos*. The classical titles mislead: Bolling is still in the business of Parisian jazz-classical pop.

The two piano mix works pretty well. Bolling veers inventively between jazz and classical piano idiom. Pierre-Yves Sorin (bass) and Vincent Cordelette (drums) do strong, well-articulated back-up, and shine by themselves just before the first Sonata's finale.

The section following their rhythmic cadenza holds terrific piano writing and a moment that recalls the super-deep left hand of "House Party Starting" by the Herbie Nichols Trio. The bass has always been wonderfully loud and rich on bolling records and that's the case here.

Jazz

Ralph Sutton and Jay McShann, *Last of the Whorehouse Piano Players* (Columbia, CRD-306)

If you like tasty piano playing that draws from the stride and blues styles, this session is double trouble. Talented, and ageless, veterans Ralph Sutton and Jay McShann teamed up for a dozen piano duets in which they are backed by bassist Milt Hinton and drummer Gus Johnson.

Just about all of the tunes are classic jazz material, including two of McShann's blues, *Do Wah* and *Fore Day Rider*. While both players have distinct musical personalities, they have learned to complement each other so well that it is sometimes impossible to figure out who is playing a particular passage.

What matters most is the incredible way they trade musical ideas, anticipate and complement each other.

Rock

Gunbunnies, *Paw Paw Patch* (Virgin, 91340-4)
Arkansas has no reputation for producing notable rock artists, but Gunbunnies, from Little Rock, hope to change that beginning with their debut album *Paw Paw Patch*.

The group uses a mix of new wave and classic rock, bordering along the lines of a romanticism-John Cougar Mellencamp sound.

Put A Tail On Your Kite and *Down In The Dark* are the two leadoff tracks. Their upbeat rhythm and old-fashioned rock 'n' roll sound is enjoyable to the point that the band will have most listeners toe-tapping.

Three Days Behind is among the offbeat songs, while *Big Talk* is for guitar aficionados.

The remaining tracks are anything but extraordinary. With the exception of "stranded," gunbunnies revert to an ultra-contemporary sound.

Country

Tanya Tucker, *Tennessee Woman* (Capitol 91821)

Tanya Tucker has once again come up with some outstanding material for this album. It contains *Walking Shoes*, her current successful single.

Take Another Run and *Shotgun* are both outstanding upbeat cuts and Tucker handles them with skill and feeling.

She slows down to Deliver a tender and meaningful ballad *As Long As There's A Heartbeat*.

Labelmate T. Graham Brown joins Tucker for *Don't Go Out*, another finely written tune.

Also rewarding are *There's A Tennessee Woman*, *Goodbye Baby*, *It Won't Be Me*, and *Oh What It Did To Me*.

Tucker's strong suit is choosing the songs that fit her style and in this album she accomplishes that.

By Shaun Seekins

BERT RIGBY, YOU'RE A FOOL is an old fashioned musical comedy that has proved to be a little too corny for universal acceptance. Robert Lindsay, who starred on Broadway in *Me and My Girl* plays the title character, a mine worker in a small English town who has a passion for hoofers like Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. His one dream in life is to buy the town's lone cinema, restore it to its past glory, and turn it into a cultural hub for the run-down area.

On a whim, Bert enters a travelling talent contest and is soon launched on the road to showbiz stardom. Through a series of fortuitous meetings and lucky breaks, the effervescent dancer/singer/comic is transported to America, where he first makes an unsuccessful running shoes commercial (posing as Buster Keaton) and then finds work as a dialogue coach to an arrogant actor (Corbin Bernsen). That leads to a bit part in a movie, and soon he is a wealthy celebrity, and has returned to his home town as a hero.

Franklin Schaffner's film *Welcome Home* is yet another instalment in the seemingly endless fascination that Hollywood has with the Vietnam war. Kris Kristofferson plays an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Cambodia in 1970 and has returned to the States after 17 years to find that his wife has remarried and that he has been listed as dead.

Schaffner manages to obtain some strong performances from his cast. Kristofferson gives a good portrayal of a man who has to choose between his Cambodian wife and family and the ex-wife he finds on his return. JoBeth Williams has a more difficult task persuading us that a woman who was only married for one month before her husband disappeared for 17 years and who subsequently remarried could still feel such powerful emotions. She does it well.

The *Big Picture* seems to have been made as one big inside joke. The most amusing scenes in the film are to be appreciated by people who have close relationship with the movie business. J.T. Walsh's performance as the un-

Vietnam fixation



Robert Lindsay, Robbie Coltrane, Ann Bancroft and Corbin Bernsen star in *Bert Rigby, You're a Fool*, an English comedy.

tious studio boss is spot on and Martin Short's parody of an agent is very funny. There's also a jab at the growing influence of market research when we are offered a look at the production of *Abe and the Babe*, it seems that the two most popular figures in American history are Abe Lincoln and Babe Ruth.

The story is an old one, young man betrays his ideals, is briefly successful, but loses everything and must come to terms with making good the damage that he has caused. The hero is Nick (Kevin Bacon) a young aspiring film-maker who wins a talent contest and quickly becomes the toast of Hollywood. Tempted by promises of wealth and power, he is soon driving a Porsche and mixing with aspiring starlets, neglecting his girlfriend and best friends along the way. Only as the realities of studio wheeling

and dealing are brought home to him does he come to terms with his situation.

Kill Me Again is a clever 'film noir' that has plenty of plot twists to keep the suspense at a high level. The double crosses begin early on in the film when Fay Forrester, knocks out her boyfriend and runs off with the money they have just stolen from the mob. To make sure that he doesn't try to find her, she hires Jack Andrews (Val Kilmer) to fake her death. But he does it too well and is arrested by the police. He then has to convince them that the improbable story is true by finding the girl before either the ex-boyfriend or the mob can really kill her.

Asterix And The Big Fight is touted as the most ambitious cartoon film ever made in Europe. It reportedly took 300 artists and technicians two years to make

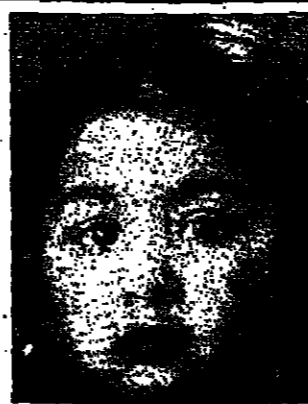
and cost several million dollars. Druid Getafix has gone completely ga-ga having been accidentally clouted by one of Obelix' flying menhirs, as a result he cannot recall the recipe of the magic potion that the Druids use to keep their strength. While Getafix is blasting a crater in the middle of the village with his disastrous experiments to refine the recipe, the other villagers have also gone crazy for a quick soothsayer who dupes them into believing everything he says. This goes down well with the Romans, who use him as bait to conquer the Gauls.

Naturally the film ends with a big Gauls versus Romans battle. The above films are by courtesy of the Video Club, Salmiya, Tel. 5724372, Fintas Towers, Salmiah Shopping Complex, Kuwait City and Safeway Shopping Complex, Farwaniya.

JUNIOR TIMES

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 29-30, 1990

Happy birthday



Preeti turns 5 on March 29



Nikhil Sharma turns 10 on April 3



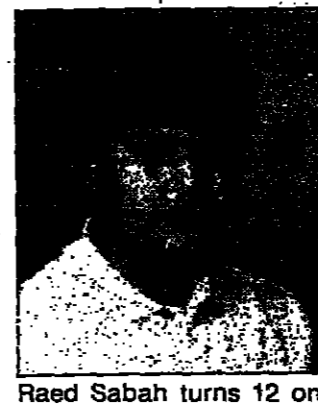
Rihab Al Shamari turns 10 on March 31.



Peeyush Gupta turns 10 on April 1



Dalya Al Awadi turns 2 today, March 29.



Raed Sabah turns 12 on March 30.



Sonia Thomas turned 6 on March 26.



Rahul Bhagat turned 5 on March 28.



Shivani turns 6 on April 2.



Vishal turns 4 today, March 29.



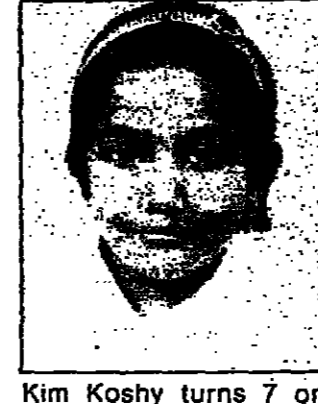
Steven Joy turns 4 on April 1.



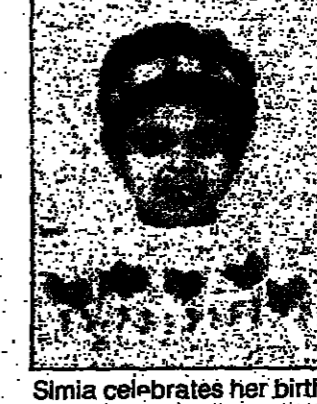
Lijo Nadakkuzhackal turns 5 on April 2.



Junaid Ahmed turns 1 on March 31.



Kim Koshy turns 7 on March 30.



Simia celebrates her birthday on March 25.



Cressida Pereira turns 8 on April 1.

Before the half hour war

Stories have been told over and over again of an age — when man did impossible things before the half hour war which ended new beginnings.

Today is — 'The Day', When man is destined to recover from the concrete walls of the fallout shelter. And once again — to do impossible things. Which man did, before The half hour war To begin in the beginning.

Putting on clothes: from our ancestors' wardrobes. Feeling the weight of our thick green suits. Donning the oxygen masks ever so tightly. For — we are the people Who will do — impossible things. Which men did before The half hour war.

Whirr of electric motors. Green level, blue level, red level, yellow level. The doors swing open. What a hideous landscape! No cement, no odour of rotting garbage! No dead bodies — just 'green stuff' No screams, no life.

We stumble back into the lift. Praying to be removed from this hideous site. The doors slowly close. The motors whirr. Down, down we go. Back to our suffering cells. Leaving behind us — The landscape that men left After the half an hour war

Saliya Silva (Age 13), Senior 2, Kuwait English School, Salwa.

Amazing facts

The rickshaw was invented by an American Baptist minister in Japan in 1888.

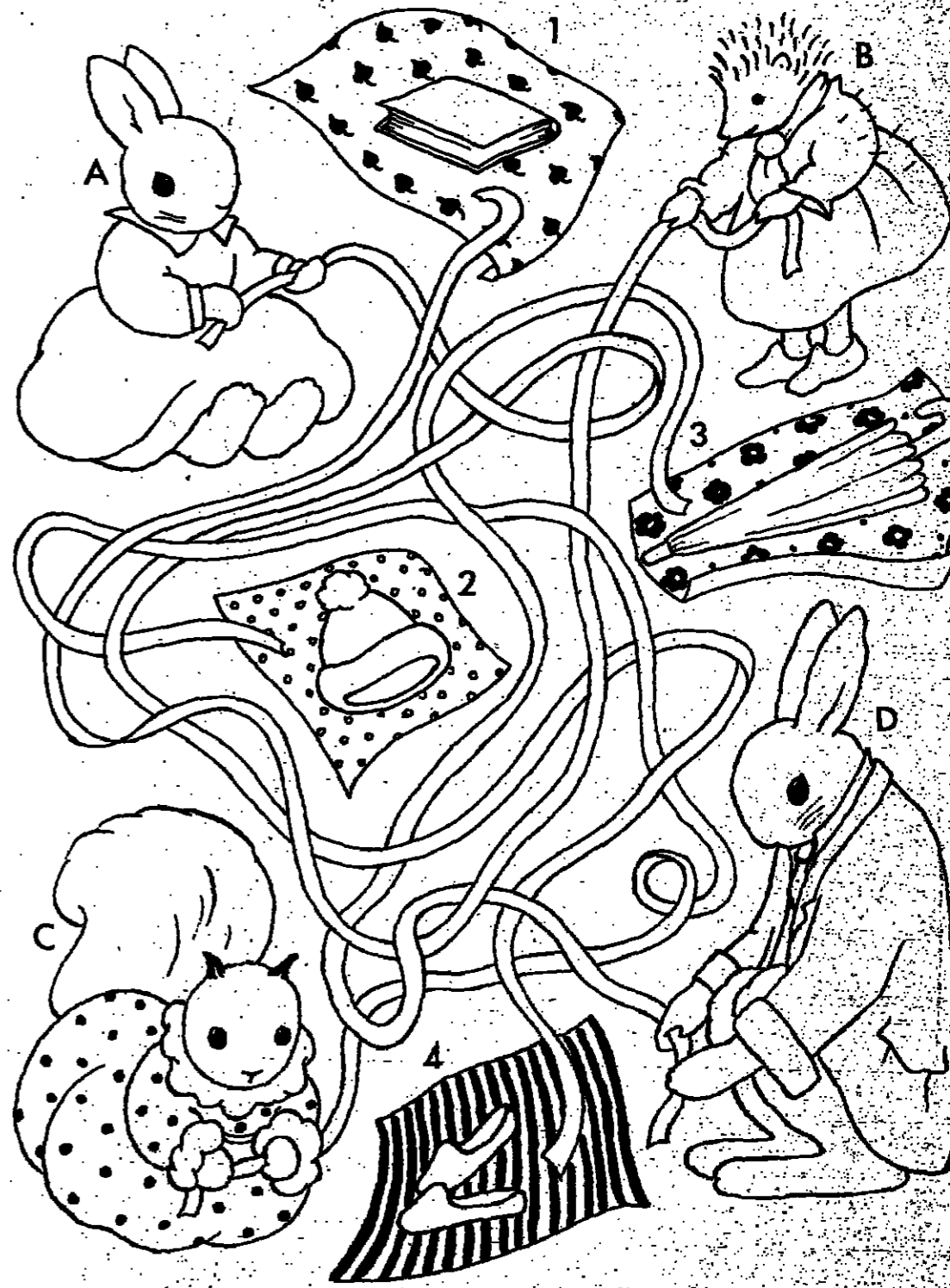
By the end of 1976 over 185 million bottles of Coca-Cola were bought every day.

The first time Christopher Columbus ever set foot on mainland America was on his third voyage in 1498. This was in Venezuela, at a point called Cristobal Colon.

Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, had an extra finger on her left hand.

What a muddle!

Which present belongs to which character?



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I know I should have been more careful, but when my 2-year-old son stuffed a small calculator battery up his nose, I rushed him to the emergency room as quickly as possible. Although the doctor tried to be polite, I felt that he was uptight and that he made a bigger thing out of this than it was. All I know is that he really made me feel bad. Can you get inside his head and figure out what was bugging him?

Answer: Foreign bodies in every possible body orifice are common enough in emergency room medicine, not only in children, who have the habit of stuffing small objects where they don't belong, but also in adults who play some unusual games.

The concern you sensed in the physician was appropriate, and I'm happy that his point of view clear to you. The usual run of objects that find their way into noses, mouths and ears may include small plastic parts from toys, marbles, pencil erasers, nuts, bolts and small screws, as well as paper clips, hard candy and beans, peas and peanuts.

But these items don't possess the same dangerous potential as those small batteries used for calculators, watches, games and even greeting cards. The battery has the added hazard of emitting electricity, capable of destroying sensitive tissue linings of the nasal and ear passages. In addition, they also have the potential of leaking alkaline chemical components that can burn these tissues and kill the cells. They must be removed as promptly as possible, using methods that reduce the probabilities of these complications.

The best medicine here is prevention — clearing the home of all small items that children just cannot resist poking into some body cavity. While the doctor's bedside

BATTERIES CAN BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN OTHER OBJECTS

manner may have been unappealing, his concern was valid.

Question: Our youngest son still has crossed eyes, even though we at first thought the condition would pass as it had with our other children. Besides the kidding he may take from other children, we're worried about his sight. Can you tell us where the condition comes from and what we can do to help him?

Answer: About 2 per cent of all children are affected by "strabismus," which is the medical name for crossed eyes, and there are several causes that should be considered before planning the treatment strategy. If it was present from birth, it may be inherited, due to a birth injury or due to problems with the eye muscles. If the problem arose later, it may have resulted from developing farsightedness or neurological disease, possibly caused by high fever.

The good news is that you are justifiably concerned about the problem and wish to deal with it. Undiagnosed strabismus can cause amblyopia or a "lazy eye" syndrome, where the vision in one eye becomes weakened. A baby should be able to focus his or her eyes on a nearby object by the age of 6 months. When this is recognized, a full evaluation of the eyes is in order.

A child diagnosed with strabismus should be examined by a doctor who specializes in eye conditions and who can decide on an appropriate course of treatment based on the results of the investigation. This may include glasses, an eye patch, medication, surgery, eye exercises or retraining to overcome the amblyopia, or any combination of these. The prognosis for normally functioning eyes is quite good, especially when treatment begins before the age of 4, although follow-up may be required until age 10.

Weedkiller crops in prospect

By Leslie Watkinson, Science staff

LONDON (LPS): Nature may have its own answer to the problem of weeds spoiling crops. Scientists have found that plants such as mustard contains compounds that inhibit the growth of weeds.

The UK Institute of Food Research has been carrying out a long-term investigation of naturally occurring compounds that have a wide range of biological activity, and is currently working to prove that mustard grown between crops can replace man-made chemicals in controlling weeds.

Dr Roger Fenwick, head of the institute's bioactive components group, says he is now confident that when mustard is grown between crop plantings and ploughed back into the soil it will produce enough potent weedkilling chemical to dramatically reduce the amount of synthetic weedkillers currently needed. There are fears that the latter are becoming an environmental hazard as the rain washes them off the soil into water courses.

Part of the research at the institute has focused on brassicas such as rapeseed and mustard. The early results of work in both Britain and Poland have shown that brassicas generally appear to have a significant effect on weed production. Laboratory experiments have clearly shown that the germination of weeds and their growth are inhibited by the active components in mustard.

Dr Fenwick says field trials have also shown that if farmers plant a crop of mustard in between two food crops, the number of weeds in those crops is significantly reduced. He explained: "The reason why mustard keeps down the weeds is due to the presence in it of a group of compounds called glucinolates. Essentially, these are the compounds in mustard which give rise to the hotness when we eat it. Their presence in the plant is really protective — they protect the plant against fungal disease and animal attack. In addition to these properties, we have found that they have really significant effect in terms of the inhibition of weed growth."

Research has shown that differences in soil have little effect on weed growth. Dr Fenwick continued: "I should say that the effect of mustard is produced by its natural compounds. The mustard is harvested, it is chopped up and these compounds are absorbed into the soil. All the evidence that we have suggests that the compounds do remain in the soil long enough to enable a wide scale killing of weeds."

Trilogy of battles

The Bourne Ultimatum, by Robert Ludlum (Random House, 624 pp., \$21.95)

THIS is the final book of Robert Ludlum's trilogy of the battles between Jason Bourne and the terrorist, Carlos the Jackal.

This one is the global battle carried out in exotic locales — the Caribbean, Paris, the Soviet KGB's model cities of America (sort of a Russian Disneyworld) and Manassas, Va. OK, so maybe not all the locales are exotic.

The characters from previous yarns are back — the sinister cabal called Medusa, the evil genius Carlos and David Webb, the academic and family man who, in his spy-novel split personality, becomes (Trumpets Blare) Jason Bourne.

Ludlum has been true to time however. Years have passed. The hero and his arch-enemy have become older. Money is no object. Middle-aged men run around the world plotting and killing like children in a make-believe shoot 'em up with toy pistols. It's all in the name of vengeance.

The evil cabal, led by a Wall Street law firm, is trying to take over the world. The KGB and the CIA, unbelievably, co-operate fully with these two madmen gunning for each other. If a high body count, gore and mayhem are your suit, or if you're a die-hard Ludlum fan, this may be your cup of tea. For others, it just isn't plausible.

The Scions of Shannara, by Terry Brooks (Del Rey, 465 pp., \$19.95)

Palpable evil was a major attraction in Terry Brooks' first Shannara fantasy novel, *The Sword of Shannara*. It appeared in 1977, and the current offering opens a second trilogy, also based in the four lands where man, elf, dwarf and troll live in a post-apocalyptic world.

In *The Scions of Shannara*, Brooks returns to the Ohmsford family, whose ancestral trace of eleven blood gives them access to potent magic. It opens with magic outlawed under oppressive rule of the federation.

Worse yet, the elves have disappeared, the

dwarves are under genocidal enslavement and shadowed roam the land — vile magical creatures who transform men and women into zombie-like parasites. And now, young Par Ohmsford is plagued by dream-warnings from the shade of Allanon, the last Druid, now 300 years dead.

Par is an inheritor of the magic of the elfstones. His talent is the wishsong. Of course, his duty become recovery of the missing sword, which can reveal truth and vanquish evil.

This first volume sketches the full set — three daunting quests. Of course, one volume is barely sufficient for one quest, although it strides rhythmically toward its goal and hints of the exotic dangers to come.

Brooks uses sturdy, familiar plays to assemble and motivate his medieval characters. His lawyerly training shows as he builds his descriptive passages a mix of incantation and evocation.

While this book lacks the oppressive sense of evil that marked the first novel, it maintains a level of mystery: nothing about magic is as it appears. The tapestry is tightly woven, but the colouring seems duller, the scenes less electric.

The reward for the reader is a substantial escape, but the cost in hardcover may be too high a price for many. Bless Del Rey for its paperbackbacks.

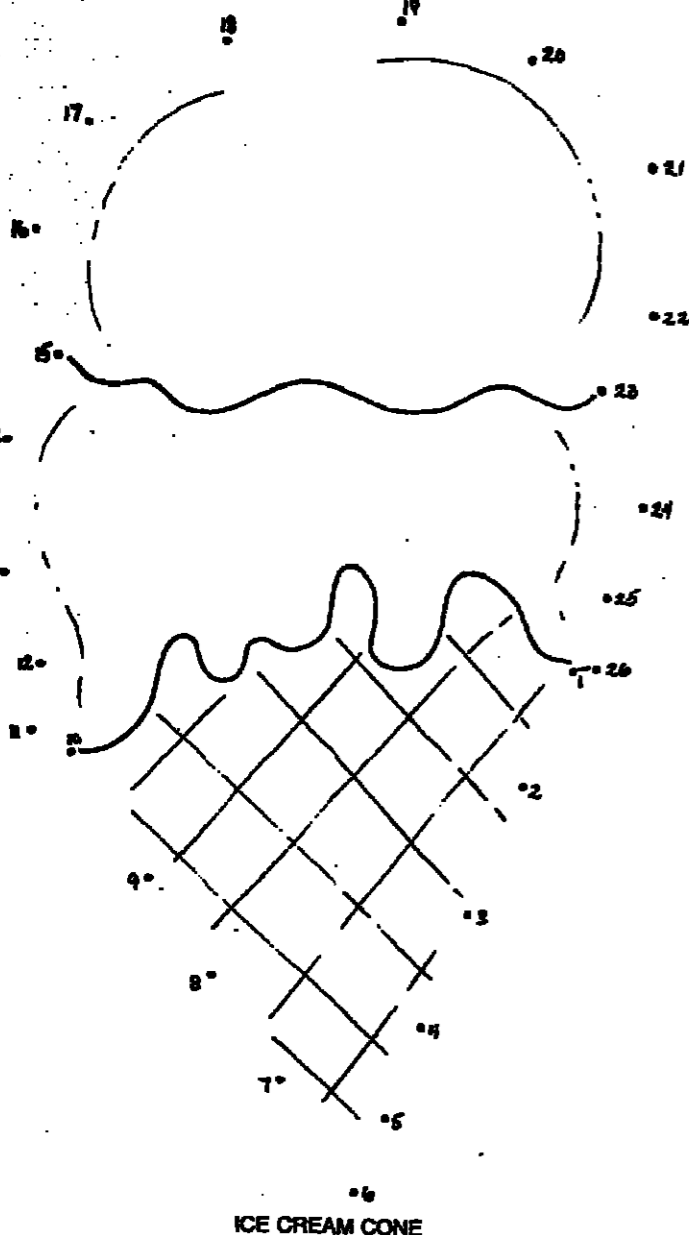
The Spy Went Dancing, by Aline, Countess of Romanones (Putnam's, 320 pp., \$19.95)

Aline, the countess who was a spy, is at it again with another of her adventures set this time in Madrid and Europe in 1966.

Although the war is over, espionage is not and "Tiger" finds herself once again in the thick of things, this time assisted by her friend, the Duchess of Windsor.

The countess finds her newest assignment, finding a deeply entrenched mole, is intrinsically tied to her past. And although the war has been over 20 years, the danger from the past is still fresh. *The Spy Went Dancing* is irresistible.

Join the dots



ICE CREAM CONE

What words can you find?

A C E G I L
2 3 4 5 6 32
S M T W T
1 9 8 10 15
2 F M A M J

Which three-letter words
end in one word
and start the next?

RAB I TER
ROT I DER
GAR I TIST
CAR I ROL
MAR I JING
HAP I ICIL



Underline the letters to find out what book each member of the family is reading.

Firsts and lasts

The first record of fly-fishing is that it was practised with great skill by the Romans.

South Africa's first railway was built in 1860, thirty years after they were built in America.

The first wrestling is known to date from 2,700 BC when it was practised in Iraq.

Dear Junior Readers,

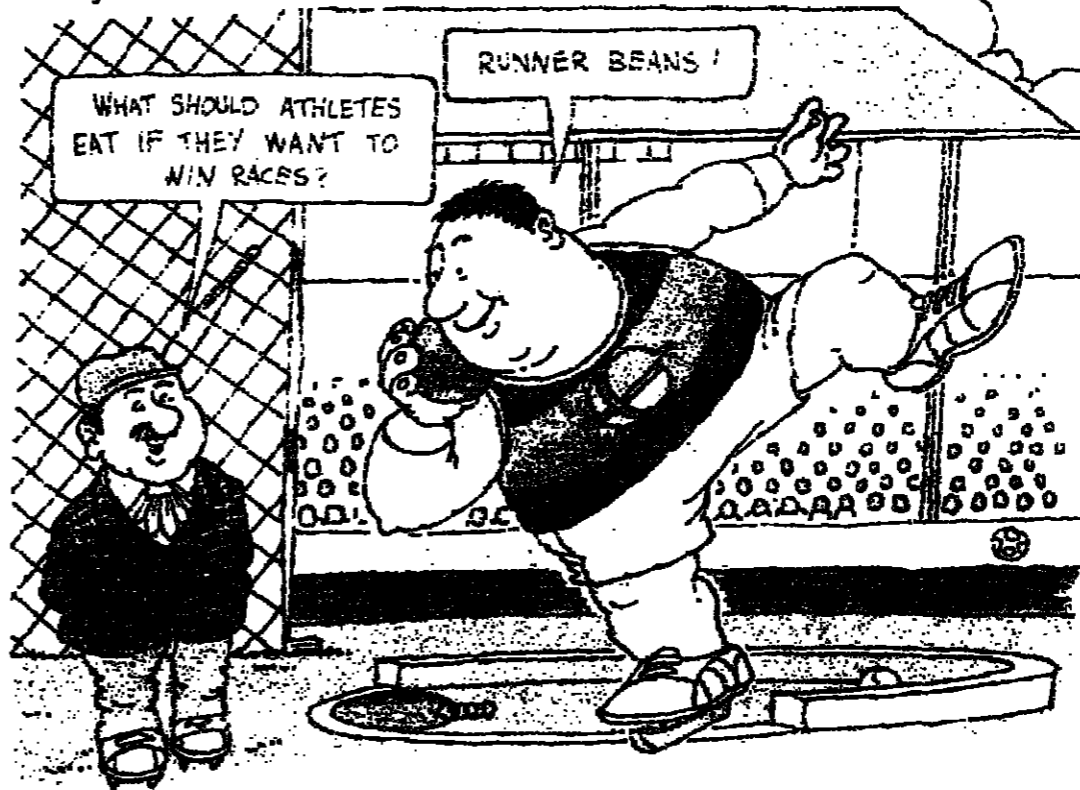
Do you always clean your teeth properly? You should brush them twice a day — after breakfast and at bedtime. You need your own

toothbrush with a small head and nylon medium-hard bristles. If you can, you should buy a new one every month. You must never let anyone else use it. Choose toothpaste which has fluoride in it. Fluoride strengthens the hard enamel on the

outside of your teeth. You can also buy fluoride mouthwash. Last, you can use disclosing tablets. These stain your teeth red in the places where there is plaque, the sticky stuff that makes holes in your teeth. Manal.

Sports bag

At least ten items of sports equipment are hidden below. Can you find them all?



Just for laughs!

Was Dracula ever married?
No, he was a bat-chelor.

What is the ghosts' favourite pub?
The Horse and Gloom.

How does a ghost count?
One Boo Three Four Five Six Seven Hate Nine Frighten!

Congratulations



Sana Waheed ranked top position in KG I of the Pakistani School, Rumailhiya. Congratulations! Keep up the good work.

"AP" Words

Directions: Put a letter in each blank to form words that fit the definitions below.

1. A P _ _ _
2. _ _ A P
3. _ A P _ _
4. _ A P _ _
5. _ _ A P _ _
6. _ A P
7. A P _

Definitions:

1. The fourth month.
2. When you put paper on a present, you _____ it.
3. When you are smiling, you are _____.
4. What you write on.
5. What you call the sections of a book.
6. What you wear on your head.
7. A big monkey.



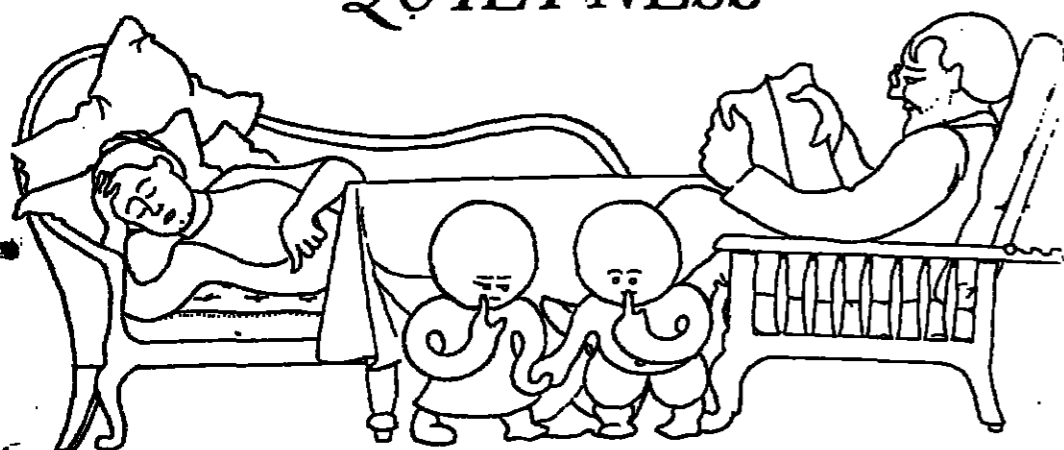
CAN YOU CREATE A NEW TOY?

ABILITY	FANTASY	MEET	SENDS
ARTISTIC	FASHION	NOVELTIES	TERMS
AWARE	FORTUNES	NEED	TEST
CHALLENGE	GAMES	PART	THRILL
CHILDREN	GOING	PATENT	TOYS
CLEVER	IDEA	PLAYTHINGS	TRENDS
CREW	INVENTORS	PROTOTYPES	UNITS
CURRENT	INVEST	REVIEW	VALUE
DESIGN	KNOWLEDGE	RISKS	WIZARDRY
DIALS	MAKE	ROYALTIES	WORLD
DREAMERS	MARKET	SECRET	
ELECTRONIC		SELECT	

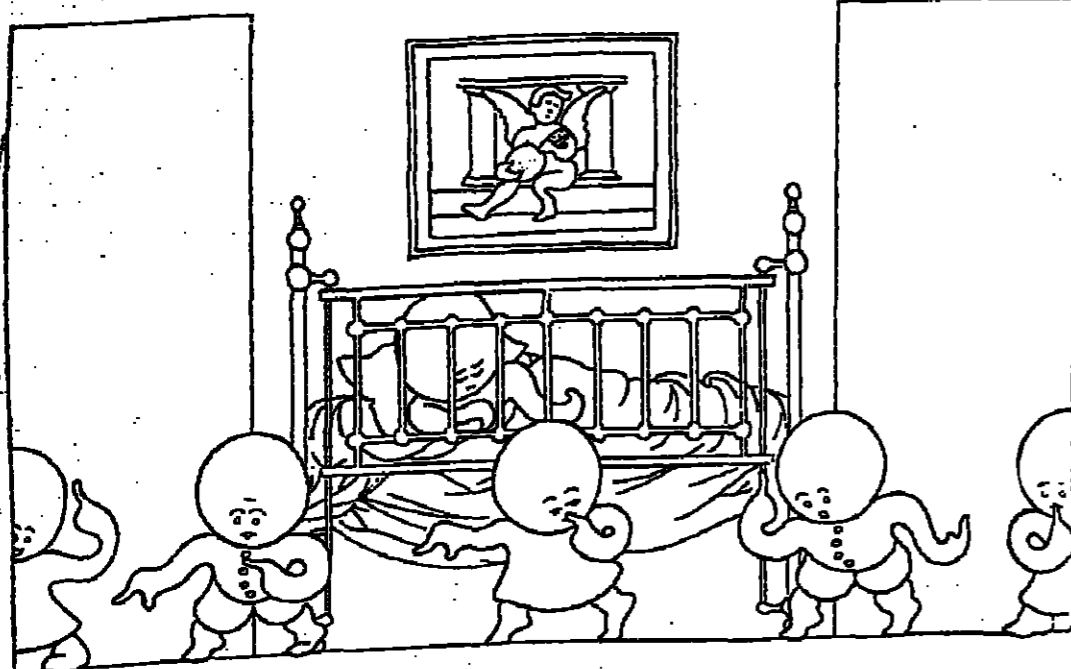
S W D S T E R C E S Y T R C A
E H F S K I G D G R D O B T R
N T Y A D S E N D S Y N R N T
U O S E S I R E A T A E E I
T H A E I H A R L L P I E R S
R C T G T Z I T W R L M N R T
O H N Y I S I O O E A A O U I
F I A W T E D T N R R T H C C
A L F V S I O R K T N C D C T
P D C M A T L E E N L S S M
N R R L Y L T I V A R E E H A
D E S P I E U N B O M V T W K
T N E R E V I E W A N E A A E
C S H D G O I N G I C R R L P
H T R C I N O R T C E L E S E

The Goops again

QUIETNESS



Hush! for your father is reading.
Hush! for your mother is ill.
Hush! for the baby
Is sleeping, and may be
He'll catch a nice dream if you're still.
Kiss me, and promise you will!



Let's Settle It!

Running water can carry sand, soil, and other things like shell pieces with it as it moves. When these things finally settle at the bottom of a lake or ocean, we call it **SEDIMENT**. The great pressure of the water on top of the sediment turns the sediment into rock. New layers of sediment form over old layers.

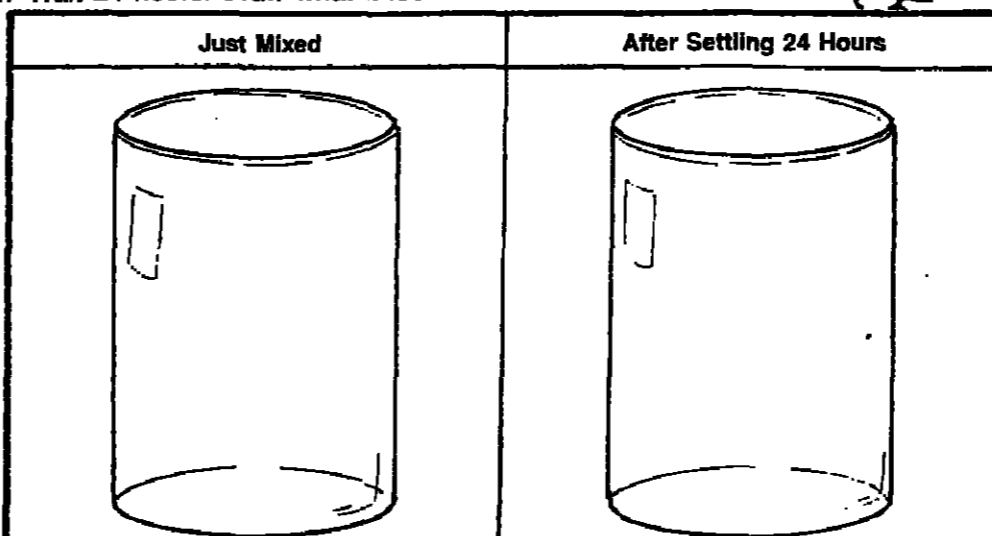
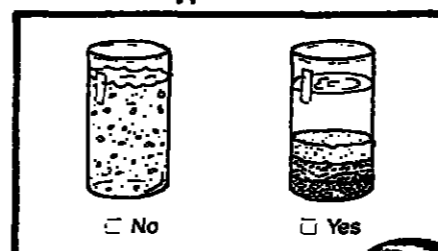
Hypothesis

? Can mixing sand and dirt together in water show how rock layers of the Earth are formed? Check your answer?

Materials Needed: 8 oz. plastic glass, sand, dirt, water, measuring cup (1/4)

Procedure

1. Collect 1/4 cup of sand and 1/4 cup of dirt from the schoolyard in a clear plastic glass.
2. Fill the glass with water until it is 3/4 full.
3. Mix the sand and dirt. Draw what it looks like.
4. Wait 24 hours. Draw what it looks like.



Results and Conclusions

1. Did you see layers of sediment in the water? _____
2. Is that what you thought would happen? _____
3. What did you learn? _____

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

EVENTS

Meet a neighbour

Atma Jashanmal

By Yakub Razaque

Arab Times staff
INDIAN businessmen have been pioneers in the promotion and development of trade and commerce in all parts of the world. For centuries India has exported its human resources and business acumen and expertise to every continent, gaining in the process a world-wide reputation and tradition second to none. Wherever they may have settled and established themselves, Indian entrepreneurs have built up a name in commerce from humble beginnings to giant enterprises through their sheer determination, hardwork and of course talent with that indomitable pioneering spirit that has now become a part of Indian commercial legacy.

In a number of countries in the

Middle East Indian merchants have left an indelible imprint in business for several decades and in some cases centuries. Since the arrival in their host countries in those early years when most Arab countries were underdeveloped, this band of young pioneers from India began to make their presence felt with their invaluable contributions to the growth of commerce of their new land.

In Bahrain a prominent name among the Indian business community is Jashanmal. In 1938, an Indian schoolboy came to visit his father in Bahrain on a week's vacation. Little did he know that he was destined to remain there and for the next fifty years be at the helm of a famous organisation in this country. The father, who three

years before, had started a small store, asked the lad to join the business and thus began an association for the teenager with his new country and company that would last to this day.

Today that unsuspecting Indian schoolboy is still here, his enthusiasm for business undiminished, heading a business empire that has become a household name throughout Bahrain and most parts of the Middle East.

Atma Jashanmal is among those rarest of business tycoons who remains unchanged and retains his principles and values of life despite success from those early teen-age days of initiation into the world of commerce. What is remarkable is his success as a human being. In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Jashanmal talked about his life and work in Bahrain.

Like in most merchant families, Jashanmal joined his father in the family business as a matter of course and duty.

"I suppose it was a natural course to follow. My father summoned me and I obeyed. My only ambition at that time was to go to college, but I have no regrets. It turned out to be alright at the end," reminisced Jashanmal.

Jashanmal started off at the 'bottom' to learn the ropes of the business and sort of 'grew up with the business.' In a few years he was asked to run the company called 'Jashanmal & Sons'.

Thanks to the leadership and foresightedness of Jashanmal, the business expanded rapidly and from a small store progressed to a retail giant selling a host of famous international products.

What makes Jashanmal a unique personality is his humanity. Unlike the average businessman he is not particularly interested in "the process of

making money" although he admits it is a necessity. He loves his adopted country Bahrain and help people dearly and makes no secret of his admiration, affinity and close bond with the ruling family, in particular the Amir.

"Bahrain is a very special place. I have lived in all parts of the Gulf, but nothing compares with Bahrain. Apart from its cosmopolitan atmosphere, the island's greatest resource is her people, the friendliest and most hospitable I have come across," said Jashanmal.

Although originally from India, Jashanmal is proud of being a Bahraini — having received Bahraini citizenship with his family — and is committed passionately to her cause in any way he can.

"Bahrain is my country. I would like to see business in general develop further in this country so that the next generation of Bahrainis can take over," said Jashanmal. His love for Bahrain explains why he never expanded his business in any other place in the world.

"I could have branched out anywhere else but I felt nothing could take the place of this beautiful island." His attachment to Bahrain also explains why he always spent his vacation here.

Atma Jashanmal, now in his late sixties, is a warm, simple and compassionate human being. A soft-spoken old gentleman, he chooses his words carefully and talks as effortlessly as he makes you feel forever welcome. A meeting with him is quite an experience. Always impeccably attired, he looks the picture of a refined and scholarly country esquire. Perhaps what draws one immediately to him is his cool demeanour and relaxed way of speaking. A self-educated and

self-made man, Jashanmal has a remarkable command of English language. Not bad for someone who never made it to college.

Like his father, Jashanmal is a philanthropist who has a deep love and desire to help anyone in need irrespective of caste, culture and nationality. Over the years his company has been active funding and sponsoring a number of various cultural and sporting events in Bahrain for charitable causes. This desire to meet and help people perhaps explains why he enjoys best the public relations aspect of his business empire. Jashanmal, among all his other achievements, is also a founding member of the island's biggest school, the Indian School. In spite of his advancing years his mind is as sharp as ever and there are no plans for retirement.

"I will carry on as long as I have to. When the time comes, the new generation will take over." The new generation includes his son and daughter as well as several nephews and nieces.

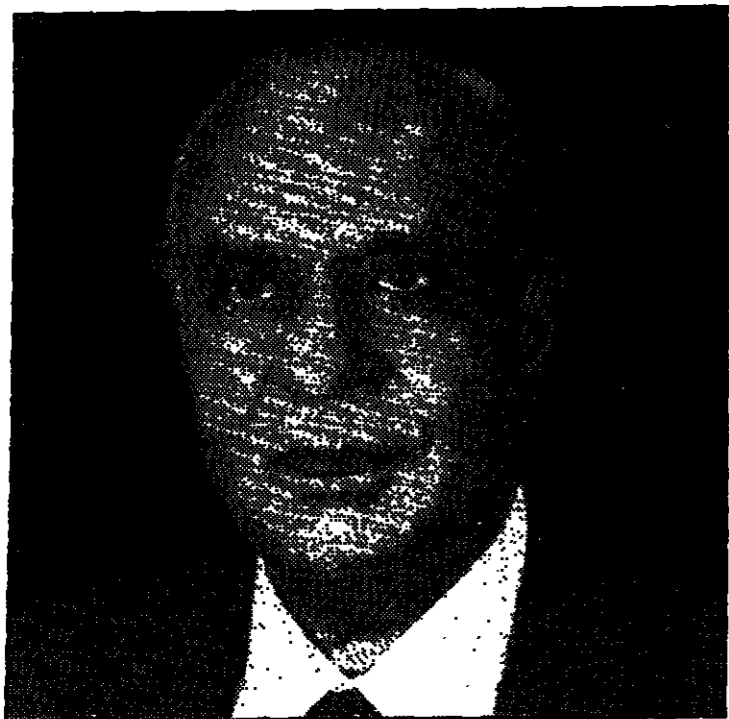
A keen sportsman in his years, Jashanmal keeps in touch with various sports in the country and sponsors a major cricket trophy named after him. These days he likes to spend some time in health centres to keep fit.

Last year Jashanmal & Sons opened a magnificent shopping complex with a range of modern facilities and quality products for its customers, a showpiece that stands as a tribute to its owners.

Asked what advice he would give to an upcoming businessman, he said, "One must be rational without avarice."

Perhaps it would be appropriate to conclude with the man's own words about himself.

"I am a simple man with simple habits. After all I am a human being."



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Moy" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Seby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadhan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Ulorda, organised by Ulorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawali.

For more information contact 4817857.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 8.00 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English) — in the big hall.

Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood cutters and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors' first meeting at Regency palace in Nabila Room from 5 pm to 7 pm on March 26. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Ladies International League

LIL'S BIG MEETING: Monday, April 2, 1990 from 7 pm to 10 pm — Sheraton Hotel Ballroom A. This month's programme shall be health, exercise and jazzercise. Audience participation welcomed but not required. Please join us for fun, refreshment, entertainment and socialising. Doors open at 7 pm, refreshments at 7.30 and programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Doors shall close at 7.45 pm sharp.

Bangladesh Itar

Bangladesh Association will hold an Itar party on Friday, the March 30, 1990 in embassy premises at Khaldiya. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Swedish Ladies Meeting

The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

HOTELS

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Itar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Itar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejs plays in the lobby diwaniya after Itar until the end of Ramadan.

Messiah Beach Hotel

Messiah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406159.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed — 10.30 — 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 — 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 — 6 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 — 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Dinghy Laser Sailing

M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times, Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesday 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 0930. New members welcome, limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5325139.

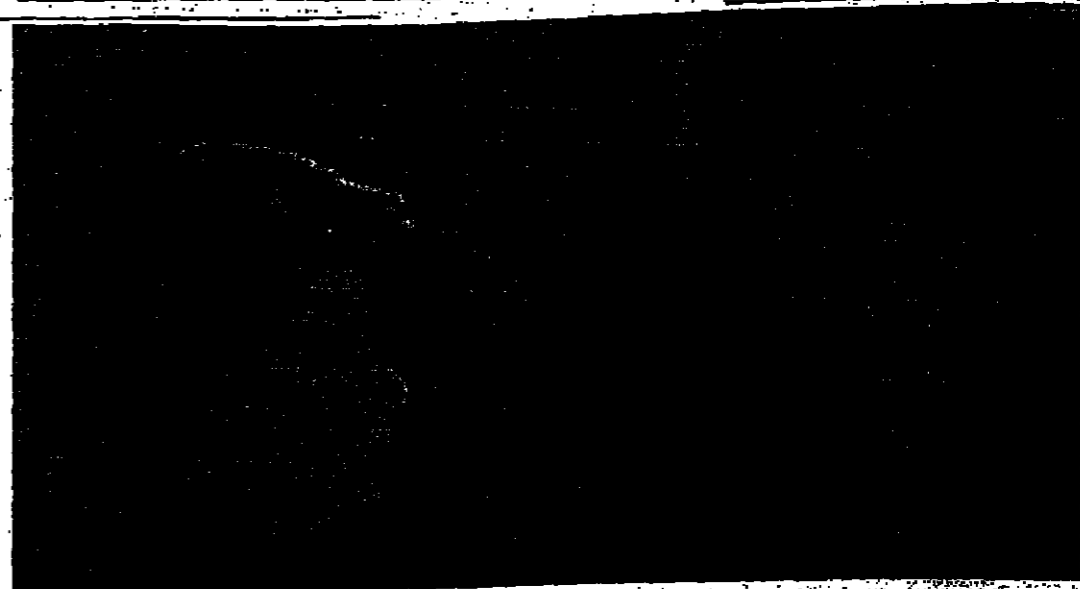
India Festival Tournaments

Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all Indian Open badminton and volleyball, tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

All Indian teams/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fixtures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact: IAC office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-10 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm)

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES



Thursday, KTV 2, 9.45 pm: Beauty and the Beast

KTV 1

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 10.15 Cartoons
- 10.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 11.00 Children Varieties
- 11.15 Cultural Film
- 12.05 Religious Feature
- 12.15 The contest of The Social Reforms Society
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon Serial
- 2.30 Historical serial
- 3.35 Teeth health: Cultural programme (part 3)
- 4.00 Arabic serial
- 4.45 Rasael Al Akha: Local programme
- 5.00 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 5.15 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.15 After Eftar: Local programme
- 6.30 Mazenger Journey: Cartoon serial
- 7.00 Shahab Al Deen Journey: Local children serial (part 4)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.15 The Family Programme: Local programme
- 8.15 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme
- 9.00 Seen Jeem: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 3)
- 11.45 Arabic serial
- 12.30 Arabic feature film
- 2.15 News Summary
- 2.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.45 Holy Quran and Close Down

FRIDAY

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 10.15 Cartoons
- 10.30 Children's magazine: Local children programme, prepared

by Ameena Khayri

and presented by a group of children

Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speeches

Al Zakat Programme: Local programme, prepared by Kuwait Zakat House

1.00 News Summary

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.30 Alwan: Local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab

2.00 Cartoon serial

2.30 Historical serial

3.35 Teeth Health: Cultural programme (part 4)

3.45 Arabic serial

4.30 Rasael Al Ekha: Local programme

5.15 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi

6.15 Baad Al Eftar: Local programme

6.30 Mazenger journey: Cartoon serial

7.00 Shahab Al Deen Journey: Local children serial (part 4)

7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

8.15 The Family Programme: Local programme

9.00 Seen Jeem: Local programme

10.00 News in Arabic

10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 4)

11.45 Wrestling

12.30 Daily Arabic serial

1.30 Black and White: Local variety programme, prepared and presented by Bader Br Resli

2.15 News summary

2.20 The World Today via Satellite

2.45 Holy Quran and close Down

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toons series for children

8.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions — training children on how to use or deal with information

9.00 News in English

9.30 Welcome Ramadan

9.45 Beauty and the Beast

10.30 The Bill Cosby Show: Cosby's son is obliged to return home after he planned a plot against him and his friends

11.00 Just for the Record: Crossing dangerous barriers — Arts and sports — The largest orange in the world

12.15 Feature Film: The Imposter: starring: Paul Meech, Nancy Kelly, Meredith Baxter. Army intelligence officer returns to the Los Angeles community theatre and drama school. In order to pay many overdue bills puts his life on the line again

1.30 News in Brief

1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait to increase investment in E. Europe

PARIS, March 28, (Kuna): Mixing foreign policy and a wise financial sense, Kuwait is the best placed investor to enter the market economies of Eastern Europe, a specialised magazine said here Tuesday.

In an article on the Kuwaiti investments, the "Economic" monthly magazine said in its April issue that Kuwait has adopted a long term investment policy in Eastern Europe that will now reap fruit.

The magazine recalled that until 1985, Kuwait was the only country among the Gulf co-operation Council to have diplomatic relations with East bloc nations, saying it inaugurated its non-aligned foreign policy by the opening of an embassy in Moscow in 1963.

It gave several examples of the privileged ties with Eastern and Central Europe, noting that when all foreign capitals left Hungary in the economic crisis of spring 1982, Kuwait decided to maintain its assets in Budapest.

"Hungary viewed that as a positive political gesture... although the Kuwaiti capitals were benefitting from returns offered in Budapest higher than any other financial centre," the Economic said.

"When the East Europeans open their market economies and searching for capitals, the Kuwaitis will be the best placed among foreign investors, because at one time in the past they were there almost alone," it added.

The magazine quoted the head of the "Kuwait Investment Authority" Dr Fahd Al Rashid as saying that there are studies underway for further investments in Hungary and Bulgaria.

Economic said that contrary to all other Opec nations, Kuwait refused to spend all its revenues, and 25 years ago it started protecting its future generations by investing these revenues in foreign markets.

It maintained that Kuwait's financial reserves are estimated at \$95 billion with returns exceeding oil revenues in certain years.

IOC and KPC sign oil contract

THREE-Member Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) delegation led by S.L. Khosla, chairman, visited Kuwait from 25 to 27. During their stay in Kuwait, the delegation had talks with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for the purchase of crude oil and petroleum products from Kuwait. On the conclusion of talks on Tuesday, a contract has been signed between IOC and KPC.

According to this contract, India is to buy 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil and 1.5 million tonnes of petroleum products which include kerosene oil and gas oil. The total value of the contract is US\$447 million. India is also likely to buy an additional quantity of 500,000 tonnes of crude oil and 500,000 tonnes of petroleum products valued approximately US\$113 million, thus making total imports of crude oil and petroleum products of US\$560 million during 1990-91.

The contract was signed by S.L. Khosla on behalf of IOC and Abdullah Al-Roumi, assistant managing director on behalf of KPC.

In 1989-90, India had purchased crude oil and petroleum products worth \$480 million.

This deal is a significant step towards further strengthening bilateral trade ties between the two friendly countries.

Dollar and gold firm

LONDON, March 28, (US): The US dollar strengthened in calm, early European trading today, fuelled by weakness in the East German mark and Japanese yen, currency dealers said.

Gold prices rebounded. Traders said investors were changing their minds about the dollar as initial euphoria over German unification fades and uncertainty about the economic costs for the mark emerge.

Tensions in Lithuania and concern over how Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will handle them were also driving investors away from the West German currency.

"It's more emotional than technical, but people are getting used to the notion of a stronger dollar again," said an analyst in Milan, Italy.

Another said: "People are turning to the dollar from a lack of choice." In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins the dollar rose for the ninth straight day, closing 1.67 yen higher at 158.63 yen.

Algeria reaches out to foreign investors

ALGIERS, March 28, (Reuters): Socialist Algeria, in a bid to ease an economic crisis, has liberalised capital movements and is likely to reap unprecedented new foreign investment.

But bankers and diplomats said on Tuesday the North African state, rich in oil and gas, faced stiff competition from newly opened East European markets.

Investors might also be cautious in approaching a country with a reputation for bureaucracy and past hostility to foreign capital.

"Algeria cannot live in a state of economic self-sufficiency," said Ali Kaci, head of parliament's finance commission after Monday's vote.

"It needs money to develop its productive capacity and has no other choice but to open up to foreign investment."

The bill to bring in the law has been watched carefully by foreign creditors

concerned over Algeria's ability to meet service payments on a \$24 billion foreign debt, expected to eat up three-quarters of export earnings of some \$10 billion this year.

Potential investors, mainly from Western Europe, have sought a more favourable legal framework than previous law which limited foreign investment to joint ventures in which Algerian state firms held 51 per cent.

Algeria boasts one of Africa's most

advanced industrial bases, a relatively skilled labour force, proximity to Europe, a huge domestic market and massive reserves of cheap energy.

Western diplomats said banking, tourism and export-oriented manufacture of semi-finished products were sectors likely to attract the most interest, especially from nearby southern European states.

The law for the first time allows foreign banks and finance firms to

establish branches in Algeria, which has been slowly moving toward a market-based economy since falling oil and gas revenue triggered a recession in the mid-1980s.

A powerful new council of money and credit will issue regulations to govern capital inflows and repatriation. The council is to be composed of the Central Bank Governor, three vice-governors and three technocrats appointed by the prime minister.

The law says foreign investment must be directed into projects that create jobs and transfer technology. No project can result in a net loss of hard currency, and foreign investors cannot enjoy privileges not available to Algerians.

Algerian bankers say the law will have a profound impact on the way they operate, placing banks at the heart of development finance in place of the treasury.

US, Soviet output drops

Subroto predicts crude price rise

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 28, (UPI): Oil production has peaked and is on the decline in non-Opec countries, but the petroleum organisation will pick up the slack and gradually increase production to meet world demand, its leader said yesterday.

Opec General Secretary Subroto, arriving for a five-day visit to Alaska, America's biggest oil-producing state, said world oil prices will rise steadily and that a new wave of environmentalism sweeping the world also will have its impact on the developing nations of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The Indonesian leader of the 13-nation oil organisation said Opec would gain an increasing share of the international petroleum market with the decline in production in the United States and the Soviet Union, but he predicted price increases would generally keep



Subroto

pace with inflation and not return to the rollercoaster price rise of the past decade.

Asked if the changing world oil picture meant Opec would regain the clout it wielded in the early 1970s, Subroto replied indirectly that Opec would re-establish its position of prominence.

"If you mean by that, will

Opec be able to supply the oil that the world needs since non-Opec production is stagnant and declining, then the answer is yes."

Non-Opec production has generally peaked or is on the decline, Subroto said, while Opec countries are capable of producing more oil. But he acknowledged there is "a rather fragile equilibrium" between world supply and world demand.

"Prices will go up slowly," he said. "Reflecting at least the inflation rate. If you talk about prices in real terms, I think it will be about \$23, or \$24 per barrel in 1995."

However, Subroto was referring to Opec oil, which is cheaper than Texas oil or Alaska oil or North Sea oil. His price prediction is roughly \$5.50 to \$8.50 more than what the average Opec price has been recently. Domestic oil has been pushing \$20 a barrel and could approach \$30 a barrel in the next five years if Subroto is right.

But the Opec chief said, "nobody wants to repeat the history of the '80s and see the fluctuation go up to \$40 and go down again to \$9 (per barrel). It's very disruptive for the producers as well as for the consumers."

The "fragile equilibrium" between supply and demand, and Opec's role in maintaining the balance, depend partly on a number of uncertainties, Subroto said.

The Opec chief said these include the emergence of new economies in Eastern Europe, what percentage of oil the Soviet Union, now the world's biggest oil producer, will be able to supply, the impact of US production declines, the speed of industrialisation in Southeast Asia, and the emergence of several "newcomer" nations as significant oil producers in the Third World.

Co-operation among producers as well as between producing nations and consuming nations underlies this precarious stability, Subroto said.

Market turmoil seen divorced from economic trends

Higher rates make lending more expensive

NEW YORK, March 28, (Reuters): Financial markets are now being driven more by international events and market forces themselves than by the underlying pace of economic growth, economists say.

"The globalisation of markets means it is more difficult for a country to conduct monetary policy independent of the rest of the world," said Norman Robertson of Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

The traditionally strong link between the markets and national economies had grown more tenuous as electronic trading has proliferated and the number and types of securities traded globally have grown.

Economist Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said 1988, "the fastest year of economic growth during the decade," was only one year after "the most severe stock market crash since 1929."

Yet three years ago, many economists predicted that the 1987 world stock market crash would herald another great depression in the United States.

In another example, gold, long viewed as a

hedge against inflation and a safe haven in times of world political turmoil, plunged to its lowest level in six months on Monday but not because of any change in the inflation outlook and despite tension in the Soviet republic of Lithuania.

Overseas, a severe 20 per cent plunge in the Tokyo Stock Market this year has been viewed as a result of an overpriced and speculative market rather than any fundamental weakness in the world's second-largest economy.

"We could have a crash in Japan's stock market without major deleterious effects in other economies," said Charles Schultz, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The loose links between the markets and the economy have been replaced by other more subtle forces that could actually hurt the economy in the long run.

Concern about inflation in both West Germany and Japan sent interest rates in those countries up sharply, and the US markets have reacted by raising rates by nearly half a

point this year to about 8.5 per cent to attract investment flows into the United States.

"The runup in US rates is largely a kneejerk reaction to the runup overseas," said Elliott Platt, chief economist of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp.

The move could hamper US growth. Higher interest rates make lending more expensive for companies and increase the cost of financing the huge US budget deficit.

If present interest rate levels are sustained, economists said, consumer confidence could slump, housing could contract and the troubled manufacturing sector could face more pressure.

International events over which the United States has little control could make it tougher for the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, to guide the economy in a direction of slow growth and low inflation.

Alfred Kahn, economics Professor Emeritus at Cornell University, said he was frightened at the lack of US control over its monetary policy, which stems from the need to draw in investment funds.

Slower growth for US economy

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP): The US economy is growing nearly twice as fast as it did in the final quarter of 1989, analysts say, but few predict it will bounce back this year to the levels reached in much of the late 1980s.

The latest consensus of top economists shows a 1.7 per cent growth rate for this year, which would be the poorest performance since economic activity declined 2.5 per cent in 1982 during the last recession.

In advance of the Commerce Department's final revision in its estimate of fourth-quarter growth today, most analysts said the report would show the Gross National Product advanced 0.9 per cent during the October-December period.

That is the same as the department's estimate last month and would mean the gap — the nation's total output of goods and services — rose 3 per cent during all of 1989.

The economy grew more than 3 per cent during each of the years since the 1981-1982 recession except when it slowed to a 2.7 per cent gain in 1986.

But even moderate growth this quarter relieves recessionary fears that some felt late in 1989 as the economy slowed after the Federal Reserve adopted high interest-rate policies in an effort to stem inflation.

David Wyss, chief financial economist for DRI-McGraw-Hill, a forecasting organisation, said he is look-

ing for 1.5 per cent growth during the January-March period, "which still is pretty weak by normal standards, but it doesn't look like we're headed for a recession."

A recession usually is defined as two consecutive quarterly declines in the GNP. The last decline was a one-quarter, 1.8 per cent drop in the second quarter of 1986, after which the economy resumed growth.

Kathleen Cooper, senior financial economist for security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles, said he expects first-quarter growth of about 2 per cent.

"This quarter turned out to be a good deal stronger than we anticipated," she said.

"But it may well be that the first quarter will be the strongest of the year," she added, saying 1990 growth would register between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent.

On the other hand, Michael K. Evans, head of Evans Economics Inc., is forecasting a "surprisingly robust" second-quarter growth of between 3 per cent and 4 per cent.

Both Ms Cooper and Evans said the relatively stronger numbers means it is unlikely the Federal Reserve will ease its tight-credit policies. The administration of President George Bush and many economists have urged the central bank to permit interest rates to fall to stimulate the economy.

South Korea wins contract

SEOUL, March 28, (Opecna): The Lucky Engineering Company, a subsidiary of South Korea's Lucky-Goldstar Business Group, has won a \$500 million contract to build a petrochemical complex in Indonesia.

Under the terms of the deal, which was signed earlier this month, Lucky will be the main contractor for the project to be sited in Serang, western Java, working alongside Indonesian firm, Graha Swakarsa Prima.

The complex, expected to be completed in 1992, will include a plant to produce 120,000 tons a year of styrene monomer, along with production units for butadiene styrene and polystyrene resins.

Tanzania set to introduce more liberal investment policy

DAR ES SALAAM, March 28, (Reuters): Tanzania is set to introduce more liberal investment laws aimed at revitalizing the country's stagnant economy, despite opposition from some socialist hardliners.

A new investment code, giving foreign and local investors new tax incentives and guarantees on their investments, has already been approved by the Ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party. It is due to go before Tanzania's one-party parliament in April.

Former President Julius Nyerere frowned on capitalism and for 23 years endeavoured to stifle private enterprise and build a socialist economy.

His more pragmatic successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, is now trying to revive private investment as part of a new strategy of liberalising the economy to promote faster growth.

"The government deliberately wishes to entice private and public investors on local and foreign origin to take a more active role in promoting the development of our national economy," the government said this week in a statement announcing the new investment

code. The priority areas for private investment include agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transport and tourism.

The government will set up a one-stop investment promotion centre to eliminate the nightmare of red tape which would-be investors have faced in the past.

And many of the present laws on investment, taxation and licensing will be amended or repealed.

The economic reforms implemented by Mwinyi since he came to power in 1985 have been backed by loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and generous support from Western donors.

The government said the new investment policy aims to improve on the poor investment growth rates which it blamed in large measure for "unprecedented economic difficulties" since the late 1970s.

"Total capital investment in real terms increased by 25.6 per cent between 1973 and 1981, then registered negative growth of 1.4 per cent between 1977 and 1981 and then rose

by only 19 per cent between 1981 and 1985," the government statement said.

It said Tanzania planned to improve legal protection for investors by joining the International Centre for the Settlement of investment disputes and the multilateral investment guarantee agency, both World Bank agencies.

Benefits would also be offered in the form of tax holidays of new investments and favourable schemes on personal income tax, indirect taxes and with holding taxes on dividends.

The statement said that to begin with priority would be given to investments which boost export earnings, the transfer of technology or reduce imports.

Diplomats said Tanzania had so far been slow to implement economic reforms and they predicted that it would take some time to put the new investment policy in place.

They also pointed to severe infrastructure problems, such as bad roads and unreliable power supplies, which were likely to deter potential investors.



Danish visit

A Danish business delegation yesterday paid a visit to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, where they were received by senior officials.

The visiting delegation later visited the KPC's training centre in Ahmadi and also the KPC's three refineries. Leader of the Danish delegation, (above) is speaking with chairman of the Kuwait International Petroleum Company, Nader Ahmad. Below part of the delegation listening to a lecture on Kuwait oil industry.



Turnover on the rise

Renault reports \$1.6b profit

PARIS, March 28, (UPI): The nationalised automobile maker Renault, confirming its turnaround from a money losing giant to one of France's biggest profit makers, reported 9.3 billion francs (\$1.6 billion) in 1989 net consolidated profit Tuesday, slightly higher than the 8.8 billion francs (\$1.5 billion) in profit recorded the previous year.

Renault said its turnover reached 174.5 billion francs (\$30.6 billion) an 8 per cent increase from the 161.4 billion francs (\$28.3 billion) in turnover in 1988.

Renault's truck division in the United States was one of the group's few money-losing operations with a \$185.4 million loss.

Even though the 1989 profit was lower than the 10 billion francs (\$1.7 billion) that had been predicted earlier by industry analysts, the results confirmed the success of the company's radical restructuring programme during the past five years.

Renault said the lower than expected profit margin was due to a 1.2 billion francs (\$210 million) extraordinary item related to the decision to close the billion-aunt plant outside Paris. In addition,

Renault said it paid 1.8 billion francs (\$315 million) to a special employee retirement fund.

Louis Schweitzer, Renault's financial director, said the firm's outstanding debt had been reduced by 6.2 billion francs (\$1.08 billion) to 17.6 billion francs (\$3.08 billion). He said the group's financial charges were reduced to 2.1 billion francs (\$368 million) from 3.4 billion (\$596 million) in 1988.

Although the debt has been sharply reduced from 62 billion francs (\$10.8 billion) in 1985 to the 17.6 billion francs (\$3.08 billion) reported Tuesday, Renault said it was the only large European carmaker whose financial debt represents more than 10 per cent of total turnover.

The French government erased 12 billion francs (\$2.1 billion) of Renault's debts last year, but the European Economic Commission has protested the action as anti-competitive.

Paris is hoping that the projected change in Renault's status from a government agency that cannot be declared insolvent to a nationalised company as demanded by the EEC commission will permit a compromise on the debt issue.

Prague approves \$7.8b budget

PRAGUE, March 28, (UPI): Czechoslovakia's legislature approved a \$7.8 billion budget that slashes subsidies to state-owned industries, cuts financial support for the Communist Party and lays the groundwork for economic reforms.

The budget, to take effect April 1, 1990, is relatively unchanged from the spending plan submitted by the government last month, and its passage is seen as a minor victory for the free market camp of the Czechoslovak government.

Advocates of free market reforms urge a quick shock treatment for the economy while left wing, including socialists and ex-communists, seek a more gradual transition that would protect the country's relatively high standard of living.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, who leads the free market proponents in the government, said when he presented the budget to the federal assembly that it laid the groundwork for a "radical economic reform based on gradual, but at the same time relatively quick and organized transition to a market economy."

The major provisions of the budget include a total reduction in subsidies of about \$1 billion, including \$17 million in direct subsidies to farmers and agricultural combines and a \$500 million cutback in subsidies to state-owned heavy industry.

Funds for the army and police were cut by \$735 million and \$70 million in annual support for the Czechoslovak communist party was eliminated.

Oil price rises flayed

ISLAMABAD, March 28, (Opecna): The leader of Pakistan's main opposition party, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, yesterday criticised increases in domestic petroleum prices implemented by the federal government.

Speaking in Lahore, Sharif, who is the chief minister of Punjab province, stressed that the rises would significantly affect the prices of other commodities throughout the country.

He affirmed that the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party would make life "miserable" for ordinary people in the country because of the unavoidable price increases of other essential goods and services.

His comments came after Monday's decision by the government's economic co-ordination committee to hike the price of all petroleum products.

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Workers looking for bigger pay raises

TOKYO, March 28, (AP): Japanese workers hope a labour shortage and recent high profits will help them win bigger pay raises and other measures to cope with burdensome housing costs in next month's annual negotiations.

Their employers say big raises are difficult at a time of new financial worries caused by higher interest rates and a severe weakening of the yen and the stock market. They also say they do not want to do anything that would push up prices and hurt the competitiveness of Japanese industry.

"The Japanese economy is prosperous, but workers' lives don't correspond to that prosperity," said Jun Masumoto of the 8-million-member Japan Trade Union Confederation, known as Rengo. The biggest share of the prosperity goes to the companies, he said.

Akira Yamagishi, Rengo's chairman, told a rally for the annual "spring labour offensive" that most corporations had been reporting record profits for the last year.

"If we miss the chance of getting higher wages and shorter working hours at this time, we will not get them," he told a crowd estimated by Rengo at 50,000 workers.

Masumoto said its guideline for affiliated unions is a demand for an 8 per cent to 9 per cent raise. Last year, the unions demanded an average of about 7 per cent and settled for 5.1 per cent, or an average of 12,124 yen (\$77.70) a month.

The Labour Ministry says Japan's average monthly wage after last year's spring bargaining, at companies employing 30 or more workers, was 264,439 yen (\$1,695.12), including overtime and allowances, but not including bonuses.

Japanese companies pay bonuses twice a year. Last year, amid an economic boom, summer bonuses at large companies averaged 645,800 yen (\$4,139.75) and winter bonuses reached 701,405 yen (\$4,496.19). This would bring average annual pay to about \$29,000.

Japan's economy now has expanded for 40 consecutive months, one of the longest post-World War II periods of expansion. Some companies deal with labour shortages that have developed in the boom by illegally hiring some of the thousands of foreigners who have entered Japan in search of high wages but lack work permits.

Government officials say the central bank's recent increase in its key interest rate, intended to avoid inflation, will restrain expansion but will be a sharp slowdown.

But companies worry about the weak yen making imported fuel and material more expensive, and about higher interest rates and low stock prices making it difficult to raise funds.

US and Mexico mulling free trade pact

WASHINGTON, March 28, (Reuters): The United States and Mexico are talking about negotiating a free trade agreement similar to the US-Canadian trade pact in a bid to create a unified North American market, the White House said on Tuesday.

President Bush...during the (1988 presidential) campaign indicated he would like to see free trade with Mexico — he would like to see a northern hemisphere dedicated to free trade, which include Canada, the United States and Mexico — and there have been preliminary discussions," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

The United States and Canada signed a far-reaching trade pact in January 1989 which aims to phase out most tariffs by the end of the decade.

Fitzwater stressed that no decisions had been made regarding a pact with Mexico. "We really haven't gone very far down that road yet," he said.

Another official, who asked anonymity, said the discussions were the result of last year's agreement between Bush and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to examine ways to enhance US-Mexican trade.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.260
Sri Lankan rupee	7.460
Pakistani rupee	13.880
Bangladesh taka	8.630
US dollar	29.930
Pound sterling	48.025
UAE dirham	0.8537
Deutsche mark	17.245
Japanese yen	0.01866

East Europe reforms could curb Asian growth

HONG KONG, March 28, (UPI): Reforms in Eastern Europe could put a temporary squeeze on economic growth in Southeast Asia as investors scramble to secure a foothold in the infant democracies, analysts say.

Market watchers say Beijing will be hardest hit as Western firms, drawn by cultural bonds and the allure of dramatic political and economic change, explore opportunities in Eastern Europe.

Investors in China had a cold shower following Beijing's harsh crackdown on mainland democracy advocates in June. Many companies abandoned projects and few have returned with the government's increasingly hard-line communist stance.

At least some of that money, analysts say, is headed to Eastern Europe.

"Virtually nobody has said anything about putting a joint venture in China in the past six months, while all kinds of companies are announcing joint ventures in Eastern Europe," said Graham Nutter, managing director of International Investments at Fidelity International. "That surely is an indication of what is going on."

Western analysts have urged their investors to tread carefully when exploring Eastern Europe's fledgling democracies, but say many firms are eager to enter the untested market.

"The United States has a large number of entrepreneurs who are ethnic Poles, Czechs and Germans and who have kept in close contact with their roots," said Eugene Lawson vice chairman of the US Export-Import Bank. "They really want to make a difference in Eastern Europe and are pushing investment."

The Ex-Im Bank is using its \$10.6 billion guarantee authority to offer trade credit insurance in Poland and Hungary and recently got the nod from President Bush to go into Czechoslovakia with a wide range of lending and insurance services.

"West European firms that would have set up factories in Asia to produce goods for Europe can now do it in their own backyard," said Ranjan Pal director of forecasting services at Business International. "The divergence of those funds will have an impact. It will slow the growth in Asia."

But Pal and other analysts say emerging East European economies also will generate a new appetite for products traditionally made in Southeast Asia. "The East bloc population is going to demand consumer goods — electric fans, calculators, cheap clothes and toys," Pal said. "East European companies will buy those products where they are the cheapest. That means Asia."

Dennis Yau, assistant director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council agreed.

"We want to diversify our markets so we don't depend as much on the West," he said. "Eastern Europe provides a promising opportunity for diversification."

The quasi-government organisation is set to launch trade missions to Poland and Hungary in late March, following a successful trip to the Soviet Union, where Yau said Hong Kong merchants garnered \$1.79 million in on the spot orders and \$24.74 million in orders under negotiation.

While Asian firms are eager to peddle their goods to consumers in Eastern Europe's new democracies, direct investment meets with less enthusiasm. Despite Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's pledge of \$1.8 billion in economic aid to Poland and Hungary, few Japanese companies have followed with investment.

"We welcome economic reforms in Eastern Europe, but Japan's tie to those countries is weak geographically, psychologically and historically," said a spokesman at one of Japan's major trading companies. "We cannot but be discreet on investment."

"Compared with Eastern Europe, East Asian markets are nearer and, I must say, more attractive."

Mindful of US investors' premature romance with Deng Xiaoping's open-

ing China market in the 1970s, American officials are prying prudence to firms eager to support the new East European democracies.

"American companies caught the China fever early on," said John Kamin president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. "We've been so connected to the process of reform a certain measure of healthy scepticism would be good right now."

"Eastern Europe is going to encounter some serious problems — more serious than what China went through."

In China there was always a certain segment of the economy not under central control but that was not so in Eastern Europe. Places such as Romania and Poland are going to have huge problems with decentralisation."

Lawson said the US Ex-Im Bank had about 40 per cent of its loans and credit insurance in Asia and although the bank was backing limited ventures in Eastern Europe, it would not do so at the expense of its Pacific rim interests.

"Most countries in Eastern Europe

are struggling," he said. "They are fledgling democracies in a transition state, a sort of never-never land limbo between a centralised, state-controlled economy and something approaching a quasi-free market. They suffer from a lack of accounting principles and procedures that can be meshed with Western practices. The banking system is weak."

"Any business Ex-Im Bank does in Eastern Europe will probably be a precious little use of our direct credit authority and much more of our guarantee authority. We are very active in Asia and Eastern Europe is not going to change that."

Market watchers said Eastern Europe could provide a cheap way into unrestricted access to European consumers after 1992, when the European Economic Community drops national trade barriers.

But there is no guarantee any of the new democratic regimes will be admitted to the European Economic Community.

Streams of cash will keep flowing

Japanese foreign investment surges

TOKYO, March 28, (Reuters): Streams of cash from Japanese companies investing in overseas factories, firms and real estate will keep flowing despite an ever-weakening yen, economists and officials say.

That, in turn, is likely to help keep up pressure on the beleaguered Japanese currency.

"Direct investment, unlike indirect investment, is based on relatively long-term business considerations," said Ryuhei Wakasugi, director of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's international business affairs division.

"So short-term exchange rate movements don't have such a big impact."

Japanese overseas direct investment has ballooned since 1985, the year of the Plaza accord, in which the seven leading industrial nations agreed to weaken the dollar in order to redress world trade imbalances.

The agreement helped boost the yen from about 240 to the dollar in September 1985 to a January 1988 peak of about 120. Meanwhile, new Japanese direct foreign investment abroad rose from \$12.2 billion in the year



Toshiki Kaifu

ended March 31, 1986 to 47 billion in the year to March 31, 1989.

About 40 per cent of the investment has gone to the United States, about 16 per cent to Europe and the rest to Asia, Oceania and other regions.

The higher yen made overseas investment cheaper and, by boosting the cost of Japanese exports, increased the appeal of overseas production for Japanese firms. But economists say the yen's rise, while encouraging the trend, was not the key factor.

"The main reason for manufacturers was to get around trade barriers, such as restrictions on imports," Wakasugi

said. "For financial institutions, it was to expand their business opportunities in an era of world deregulation."

He added, "in the case of real estate investment, the motive was the fact that return on investment is higher overseas due to Japan's high land prices."

Given such deep-rooted motives, the decline of the yen so far is not likely to alter the trend towards direct investment, economists say. The yen opened at 158.30 here today.

"Compared to 120, the yen is weaker, but compared to the pre-Plaza rate, it's still higher," said Kazutaka Miyazaki, an economist at Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank. "Japanese industry has undergone a structural change, including a shift to overseas production, and that can't be changed."

Recent news of Japanese overseas acquisitions supports the view that firms are unlikely to halt planned deals overseas.

Just last week, supermarket operator Ito-Yokado said its group had made a conditional \$400 million offer to buy 75 per cent of Southland Corp, the operator of 7-Eleven chain stores in the United States.

That followed close on the heels of an announcement that Japan's Tobu Department Store had offered, along with the management of Saks Fifth Avenue, to acquire Saks from Britain's BAT Industries for an undisclosed price which analysts said could reach about \$1 billion.

Economists say a fall in the yen's value to as low as 180 to the dollar or beyond could cause some Japanese firms to hold off on major investments, but it would probably not have a significant impact overall.

Currency traders see the yen weakening further in coming months, possibly to 165 by the start of the summer.

"If they decide the yen will go to 180 and stay there, it could slow direct investment, but since the large proportion is due to other considerations such as market access, that would go ahead anyway," said Baring Securities (Japan) economist James Vestal.

And that means one more factor that will continue to undermine the yen, as Japanese companies need to sell yen and buy foreign currencies when they set up shop abroad.

Budget approved

TOKYO, March 28, (AP): The Japanese cabinet today approved a 10.2 trillion-yen (\$64.55 billion) provisional budget to cover the first 50 days of the new fiscal year beginning next April 1.

It is the fourth straight year that the government has been forced to come up with a provisional budget while negotiations on the final budget were continuing. Finance Ministry officials said.

They said the 50-day budget was expected to clear both houses of the Japanese parliament by the end of next week.

The cabinet submitted to parliament the nation's main fiscal 1990 budget totalling 66.27 trillion yen (\$466.7 billion) in early January, but the governing liberal democrats and opposition parties still have not agreed on its deliberation schedule.



Japanese share dealers reach out over one another toward a trading counter of the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday, as share prices fell sharply in line with the weak yen, closing the morning session down 516.38 at 31,309.58. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tokyo stock market tumbles

TOKYO, March 28, (Reuters): Tokyo share prices tumbled today as the yen continued to lose value against a surging US dollar.

The key 225-share Nikkei index extended its recent slide by a further 562.39 points, or 1.77 per cent, to close at 31,263.57 after shedding a bare 14.53 points on Tuesday.

The dollar ended nearly one and a half above Tuesday's New York close after steady demand for the greenback overwhelmed currency market intervention by the Japanese Central Bank to support the yen.

The dollar ended at 158.63 yen and 1.7137 West German marks against 157.75 and 1.7133 at New York's Tuesday close. This marks the first time the dollar has traded above 158 yen in Tokyo since January 12, 1987.

Yasushi Mieno, Governor of the Bank of Japan (BOJ), Japan's Central Bank said today that co-operation on currency between Japan and the US is not weakening.

He told a news conference that Japan, in co-operation with other major nations, will continue strong intervention in the currency markets. The BOJ itself sold dollars at around 158.50 yen in late morning, currency market sources said, and reappeared at around 158.40 yen in early afternoon.

The troubled yen rattled the share market. "Whether the yen is at 158 or 160, it's pretty much the same psychologically. The market's in a fix," said Masahiko Tsuyuzaki, chief trader at Tachibana Securities.

Those who dared to buy shares sought basement bargains — stocks seen as oversold recently — and export-intensive issues that feast on a falling yen.

"It's impossible to see the bottom of the market right now," said Shigeru Nishida, head trader at UBS Phillips and Drew brokerage.

Turnover was 600 million shares against 100 million on Tuesday.

New investment trust funds were said to have trickled little cash into equities today. And brokers had low expectations that the enormous Japanese trust funds would pump much cash into the market come the new fiscal year in April.

Gold bullion was traded \$370.25 per ounce in late afternoon, trade against 369.25 in New York on Tuesday.

In regional share markets, Australian share closed almost steady in extremely listless trade, brokers said.

The All Ordinaries index finished 0.8 points off at 1,557.9 after trading in a tight six-point range all day.

Taiwan stocks closed slightly higher after falling in early trade. The weighted index rose 41.56 points, or 0.4 per cent, to end at 10,447.87 compared with Tuesday's 10,406.31 finish.

Hong Kong stocks were lower in late afternoon trade.

New Rothmans Lights

Rothmans of Pall Mall and Mohammed Abdul Salam Shuaib Trading company have announced the launch of the NEW ROTHMANS LIGHTS cigarettes in the Kuwait Market. Made from the best tobacco money can buy they are packed to perfection in an attractive gold and white pack and are low tar/nicotine American flavoured cigarettes. The NEW ROTHMANS LIGHTS are available in Co-operatives and major retail outlets at the same price as Rothmans King Size.

Employment continues to rise rapidly in industries, says IBK study

THE US FOLLOWING a weak fourth quarter in 1989, the US economy has been showing a few signs that it is not about to drop into a recession. The number of workers on industry payrolls surged in January and again last month and the unemployment rate remained at 5.3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis for the ninth consecutive month.

Although there were some special factors that contributed to the gain, employment continued to rise rapidly in industries providing services while manufacturing jobs lagged. The manufacturing sector is showing no signs of recovering soon as factory orders in January took their deepest plunge since 1974, largely because of a record decline in durable goods. Industrial output also declined and capacity utilisation dropped sharply from 83.1 per cent in December to 81.9 per cent in January, according to IBK's Interest and Exchange Rate Monitor.

Housing starts surged 29.6 per cent in January due to unseasonably warm weather but this is not viewed as a reversal of the slump trend in the construction industry during the past year. Retail sales were also relatively strong boosted primarily by the strong performance of the car market following the launch of a new campaign of incentives.

However, most economists do not foresee

a US recession during the next 3 years. In his half-yearly statement to Congress, Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan said that the US economy may have avoided the danger of an imminent recession although it still faces a risk of accelerating inflation.

Consumer prices were up 1.1 per cent in January and 0.5 per cent in February with the core rate (excluding food and energy items from the index) still around 5 per cent. Inflation was 4.6 per cent in 1989. December's trade deficit dropped sharply to \$7.17 billion from November's \$10.29 billion but the trend remains.

Japan

With the fastest growth of the main industrialised economies, Japan is entering 1990 in high gear. Economic reports indicate continued growth in Japan's mining and industrial production, retail sales, household spending and leading indicators—all fuelled by strong domestic demand.

This strong growth is bringing with it inflationary pressure although at approximately 3 per cent, inflation remains at a low level. When the effect of the 1989 sales tax drops out of the price index in April a more accurate picture may be seen.

However, the fear of inflation has been enough to push Japanese interest rates up in what may be a fundamental economic shift portending the end of the era of extraordinarily low Japanese rates. Although this change would normally be expected to lead to much slower economic growth, many potential negative consequences will be mitigated by the huge cash reserves Japanese corporations built up during the time of low rates.

The more dangerous factor in the performance of the Japanese economy is the weak yen. While adding to inflation it also retards the attempt to reduce the trade surplus by making Japanese exports cheaper and imports more expensive. This is especially important in the sensitive US-Japanese trade balance. Although Japan's overall surplus on a customs-clearance basis fell 16.9 per cent to \$64.4 billion in 1989, its bilateral surplus with the US narrowed at a slower 5.5 per cent to \$45 billion. In January, the current account deficit dropped into deficit for the first time in six years, largely due to seasonal factors.

W. Germany

The accelerating momentum of political and economic reunification between East and West Germany has significantly altered the outlook for the West German economy. Consumption growth is increasing, due to employment growth, tax cuts and the prospect of higher wage increases. Unemployment fell to 8.2 per cent in February from 8.5 per cent in January and from 8.9 per cent in February 1989. The wave of immigrants from East Germany hasn't yet had a strong effect on the unemployment rate. All sectors experience a rise in jobs, especially the manufacturing, construction and services industries, and immigrants helped contribute to alleviate a shortage of skilled workers in the country. Inflation firmed 0.3 per cent in February from January and was up 2.6 per cent from February 1989.

Data for industrial production and trade in January suggest that the West German economy is still growing at a robust rate, and GNP may grow at the same pace as last year where it grew by 4.0 per cent. Industrial production rose

1.7 per cent in January from December and was 4.3 higher than in January 1989.

Trade surplus rose more than 8 per cent from a year earlier, to DM12.8 billion from DM11.8 billion in January 1989. Exports rose 11 per cent in January to DM50.4 billion, while imports were up 12 per cent to DM28.6 billion. The current account surplus also increased in January to DM10.8 billion from DM6.2 billion in December, but down from DM11.3 billion in January 1989.

Wholesale sales rose a real 4.4 per cent to DM68 billion in January from a year earlier. This increase reversed a real 5 per cent decline in December 1989. In nominal terms, wholesale sales gained 5.5 per cent in January. Retail sales surged a real 5.9 per cent in January from a year earlier, with gains in all major retail sectors.

United Kingdom

Britain's productivity for the whole of 1989 began to decline for the first time since 1984, while wage costs per unit of production moved ahead of inflation to 10.1 per cent. Growth of

GDP slowed to an annual 2.3 per cent in 1989 after rising 4.6 per cent in 1988 and is estimated to increase by only 1.0 per cent in 1990.

In the fourth quarter of 1989 it increased by only 0.7 per cent over the third quarter to stand 2.0 per cent higher than a year earlier. Manufacturing output in the three months ended January was 0.2 per cent below the previous three months but 1.9 per cent higher than a year earlier. This was due to industrial disputes which had depressed manufacturing output during this period by 0.5 per cent.

Concerns about the performance of UK inflation increased due to year-on-year increase in RPI at a 7.7 per cent in January. With a further mortgage rate increase in March, and the effects of the poll tax coming through in April on petrol, alcohol and tobacco, RPI may climb as high as 9.75 per cent far from the 5.57 per cent rate forecast at the end of 1990, according to budget estimates. Unemployment rate in January fell to 5.7 per cent from 7.0 in December and from 7.2 in January 1989.

(To be continued)

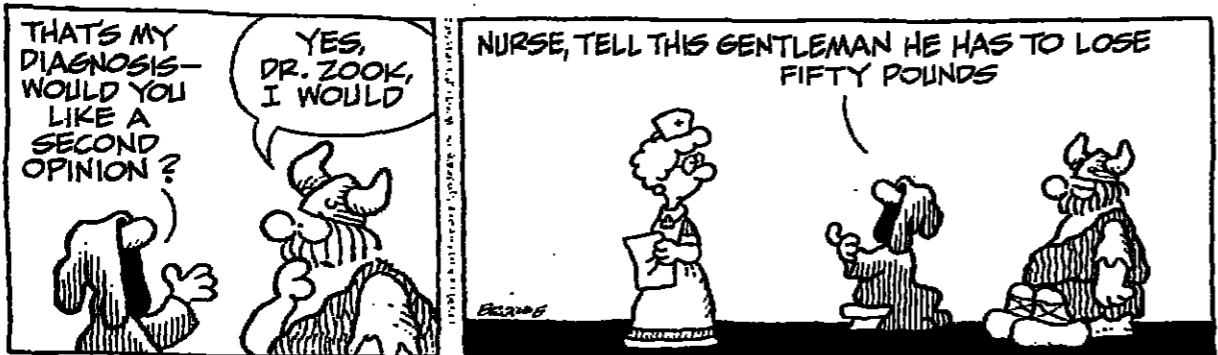
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



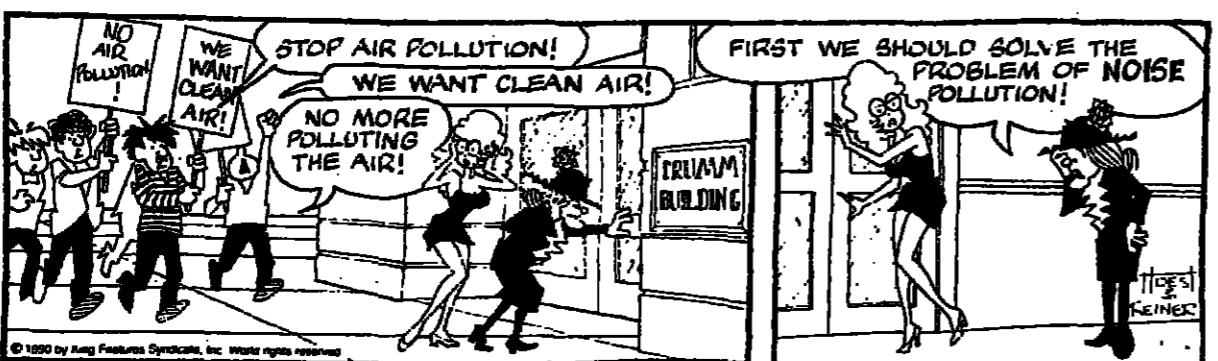
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



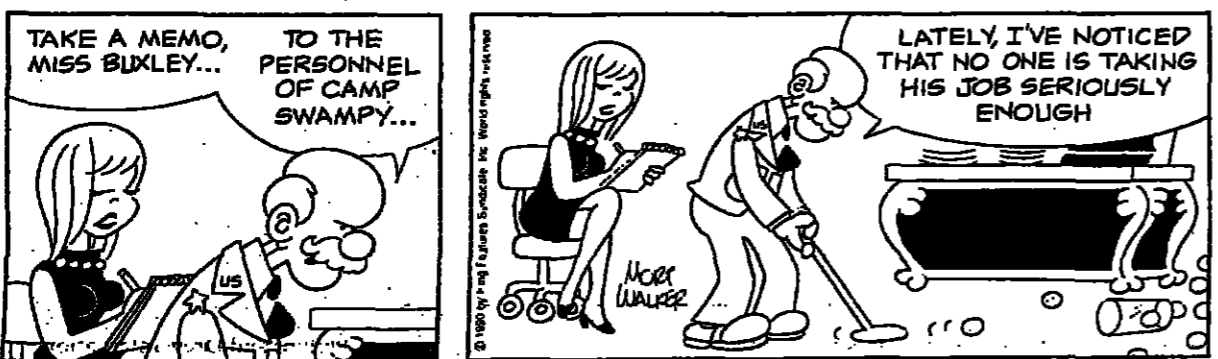
AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



BEETLEBAILEY

By Mort Walker

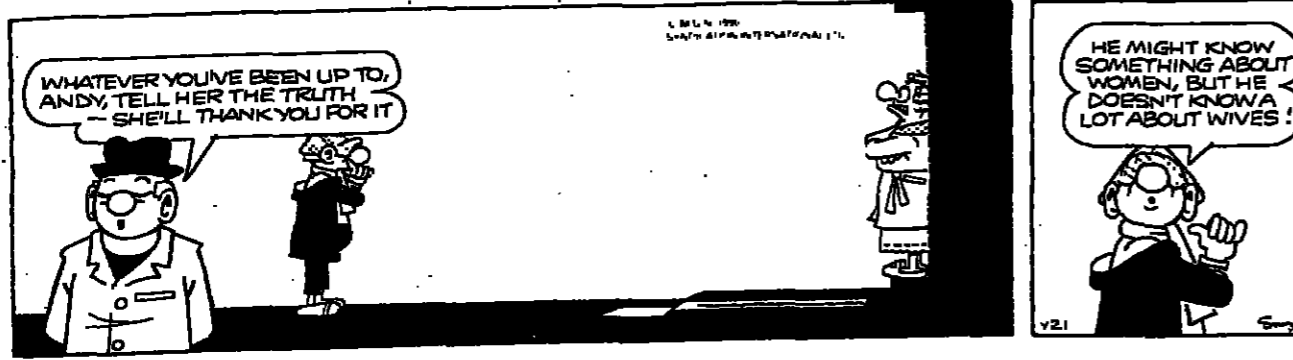


THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

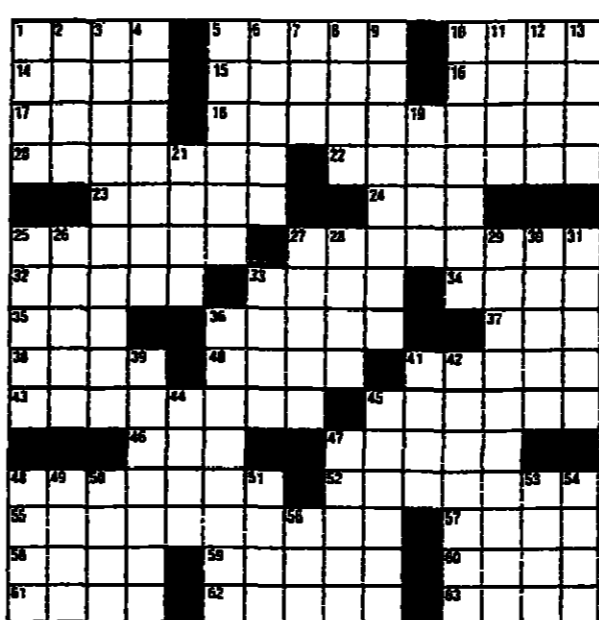


THE MAN

By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Green grocer
 - Desires
 - Part of a party line
 - The tentmaker
 - System of belief in the British West Indies
 - Officiate at a tea
 - Plau ingredient
 - City on the Wabash
 - Rakes with gunfire
 - ... caters for the —: As You Like It
 - of Two Cities
 - Success, as a show
 - Abalones
 - Work clothing
 - Silly ones
 - Rabbit
 - Midday
 - Operated
 - Strode
 - Sign for a hit show
 - Outer: Comb. form
 - Raise
 - Mild cigar
 - Corks
 - Pluto, for example
 - Cosset
 - Accompanying
 - Puts upon
 - Most downcast
 - Site of a U.S. mint: 1870-93
 - Cinder ending
 - Nobelist, Wiesel
- DOWN**
- Gift receiver
 - Restrain
 - Oilfield
 - Turt
 - Very fast planes, for short
 - Launcelot's uncle
 - Skip
 - Pony Express terminus
 - Makes
 - Inns
 - More than plump
 - For each
 - Little pitchers have these
 - Chloe's
 - Daphnis
 - Severe
 - Journey
 - Biography
 - lead-in
 - Developed
 - Mod musical
 - Bus passenger
 - Blunderbores
 - Respond
 - Killer whales
 - Turn sharply
 - Captured by Commodore Stockton: 1846
 - A "Casablanca" actor
 - Look down one's nose at
 - Bugs or Max
 - Lets on
 - Objects
 - Clumsy one
 - Advice
 - columnist Ann
 - 100 centavos
 - Joined the team
 - Michaelmas daisy
 - Bakery worker
 - African republic
 - Stuffed shirt
 - Harbor craft
 - Skirt feature
 - Toasts in the sun
 - "Fig — poke"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BRED CHAIM RIAP
RAGE RECTO ESNE
AUCTIONEER STEN
ELEATOR ATTIRE
IONIC ORDO
JOANNE LENIENCY
ORG ERGOT SNORE
VOCE SETTO TMAN
ENOLA STUBS FEET
SOULMATE SPARTIA
NIAIS DREAR
ANTONIA ESTRADA
FEAT AMBASSADOR
RIANT NAIVE NAAT
OPTS SHIDES TIREY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
AVOID THE DANGER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 42
♥ A 8 7 6 3
♦ 42
♣ Q 8 5 3

WEST
♠ A Q 7 6 5
♥ 10
♦ A 7 6 5 3
♣ J 4

EAST
♠ J 8 3
♥ 42
♦ 10 9 8
♣ K 10 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9
♥ K Q J 9 5
♦ K Q J
♣ A 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

On today's hand declarer was the victim of an acute case of "flying fingers." He played to the first trick without pausing to plan his campaign and paid the appropriate penalty.

The auction was straightforward. Note that, with his dearth of aces and multitude of slow tricks, South had no interest in three no trump. He realized that, by the time he had developed enough tricks at no trump, the enemy would have established and cashed more than enough tricks to defeat the game.

West led the jack of clubs and declarer routinely covered with the queen—"West might have been leading from the J 10, partner!" he explained later. East's king fell to the ace, declarer drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy and led a diamond to his king. West took the ace, led a low club to East's nine and East's spade return netted the defenders two tricks in that suit. Tough luck.

Not really. Had declarer paused to plan the play before committing himself to the first trick he might have survived. Given time, declarer can discard one of dummy's spades on a long diamond. To buy that time, East must be kept off lead.

Suppose South played low from the table at trick one and, when East follows low, allowed West to win the first trick. Declarer can win the club continuation, draw trumps and then force out the ace of diamonds. When West has to win the diamond trick the contract is safe. There is no way for West to reach East to have a spade led through the king. Whether or not West takes the ace of spades, one trick in that suit is all the defenders can collect.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You are liable to jump to conclusions and should try to avoid doing so. You will have a good opportunity to make amends for a past omission. Do not reject an offer or proposal without first considering it carefully. Be hopeful.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You should not allow some small setback to discourage you altogether. A small cold or infection should not be neglected lest it gets worse. Think a little longer before deciding on a course of action. Be tolerant.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

A lot of your time will be taken up by secondary matters, but you cannot altogether ignore them. Make sure you do not forget to keep a promise you have made. Steer yourself away from gloomy thoughts. Be moderate.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will have a good opportunity to do something you had long wanted to do. Do not say you can do what you are not yet fully qualified to do, how to do. Instead do your best to learn the necessary skills as quickly as possible. Be resolute.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will tend to feel rather irritable but you will also be able to overcome this mood if you try. Make sure you do not eat anything that has upset your stomach in the past. Avoid taking too much for granted. Be firm.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Something that you have not been able to do of late will now again become possible. However, you should still exercise a certain amount of restraint. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 24. There is no reason for undue pessimism nor for wild optimism. Be loyal.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You will tend to be rather nervous but if you try you can calm yourself. A letter you had been expecting will not contain the news you had hoped for. You should keep your eyes and ears a little wider open. Be attentive.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You should take another look at your costs, they may well be higher than you first thought they were. You must avoid making a nuisance of yourself no should you suffer fools gladly. If you expect results overnight you will be disappointed, have a little more patience.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be tempted to just hope for the best and would be foolish to do so. What seemed at first like a good idea will turn out not to be. Make sure you do not omit to pay a bill you have incurred. Be helpful.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You should not take too much for granted just now. You would be wrong to make more haste and in the process drop your standards of excellence. Do not allow your day to be all work and no leisure. Be less talkative.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Avoid exposing yourself to noise nor should you generate noise. Avoid expenditure that does not keep within the bounds of your income. Do not leave your partner in any doubt about your love. Be sincere.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

There is a greater likelihood of mistakes so watch out for them carefully. Make sure you remain receptive to new ideas and do not allow yourself to get into an invariable routine. Make sure you eat a well-balanced diet. Be compassionate.



"This reading lamp hasn't uttered a word since I bought it!"



"Did you have to buy him such a big bucket?"

MARKET PLACE

Hand-Salem St.
Tel. 2413847

Whispering finishes 2nd and 3rd Red Viking, Shammal win

THE Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association (KOSA) continued its Spring Series on Friday by staging a two-Cans race double header. The morning race SS9, was won by Red Viking from the rapidly improving Whispering. Shammal continued her impressive form and was a convincing winner of the afternoon race SS10.

A dead calm engulfed the Shaab Marina in the early morning as the race officer set about laying the course. However, much to his relief, conditions changed rapidly and resulted in a 15 knot south-easterly breeze by briefing time.

All yacht crews breathed a sigh of relief at the prospect of daylight sailing after the rigorous schedule of night races held recently. Some crew members expressed amazement at the sight of colour in their spinnakers.

Seven yachts lined up for the day's activities; the regulars, Red Viking, Shammal, Magic Flute, Good Company and Whispering were joined by the two 40 footers Danat and Gull Wing. Both these yachts have only recently hit the water and are keenly training their

crew and generally getting their act together for the forthcoming Bahrain Race.

The SS9 course was set as a triangle sausage triangle over a ten mile distance. Most yachts elected to run for the start line on port tack but Red Viking gybed onto starboard just before the start and using her right of way caused havoc amongst the fleet which had to take avoiding action. Only Danat who got a good upwind position on the beat to the windward mark and Magic Flute were able to escape.

All yachts opted for full mainsails and their biggest No 1 Genoa's which, in some cases, resulted in them being over powered as a result of the gusty conditions caused by being close in shore with a lot of tall buildings. After a short but exciting leg Danat rounded the windward mark (Fish Cages) first and was followed around by Gull Wing, Red Viking and Shammal were the next to round.

The second leg was a close reach to the Wing Buoy and saw most boats fly their spinnakers. The Gull Wing crew were unlucky enough to hoist spinnaker sideways; this problem was

later compounded by not being able to drop the spinnaker at the Wing mark which forced them completely off course.

A feature of the race was the improved form of Whispering - she was right up with Red Viking and Shammal at the end of the first triangle (ODM mark). Magic Flute was not enjoying one of her best days considering the strong conditions which she favours. Good Company were struggling and did not look like matching the second place achieved in the previous race. Gull Wing made a good recovery and passed Red Viking just after ODM.

Danat went on to take line honours with a time of 1 hour 43 minutes, in a good performance which augurs well for their crew of 13 as they continue to prepare for Bahrain.

Handicap corrected results of SS9: 1 Red Viking 2 Whispering 3 Shammal.

The afternoon race highlight (or lowlight) proved to be the start. In an incomprehensible affair, Danat got away to a good start, upwind and at least 100 metres clear of her nearest rival, Whispering. Shammal followed next; Gull Wing misjudged the short line and was forced to tack onto port in order to clear ODM; Red Viking crossed minutes later and downwind.

In a brilliant recovery, Gull Wing rounded Fish Cages in a neck and neck tussle with Danat a clear indication of the battle that will ensue between these two on the way to Bahrain. Danat was paying the penalty for electing to reef her mainsail and use a number 2 genoa.

Whispering continued where she left off in the morning and flayed the 1 1/2 ton end of the fleet by rounding Fish Cages not far behind Shammal and with a good lead over Red Viking. Magic Flute was having a dirty day and was obviously suffering from the effects of the heaviest trying to do too much while having a bad dose of the flu. Good Company emerged from irons and immediately began to gybe for the windward

mark! Gull Wing and Danat traded blows on the reach to the Wing mark. The latter yacht went for broke and hoisted a spinnaker which proved too hot to handle and resulted in a broach or two. Gull Wing played the percentage game and used her genoa well to nudge out Danat at the mark and began to build a lead.

Shammal elected not to fly her spinnaker and looked in ominously threatening form as far as the fleet was concerned. Red Viking decided to get serious and catch whispering; she 3/4 hoisted her spinnaker and after much effort the skipper "spat the dummy" and called matters to a halt.

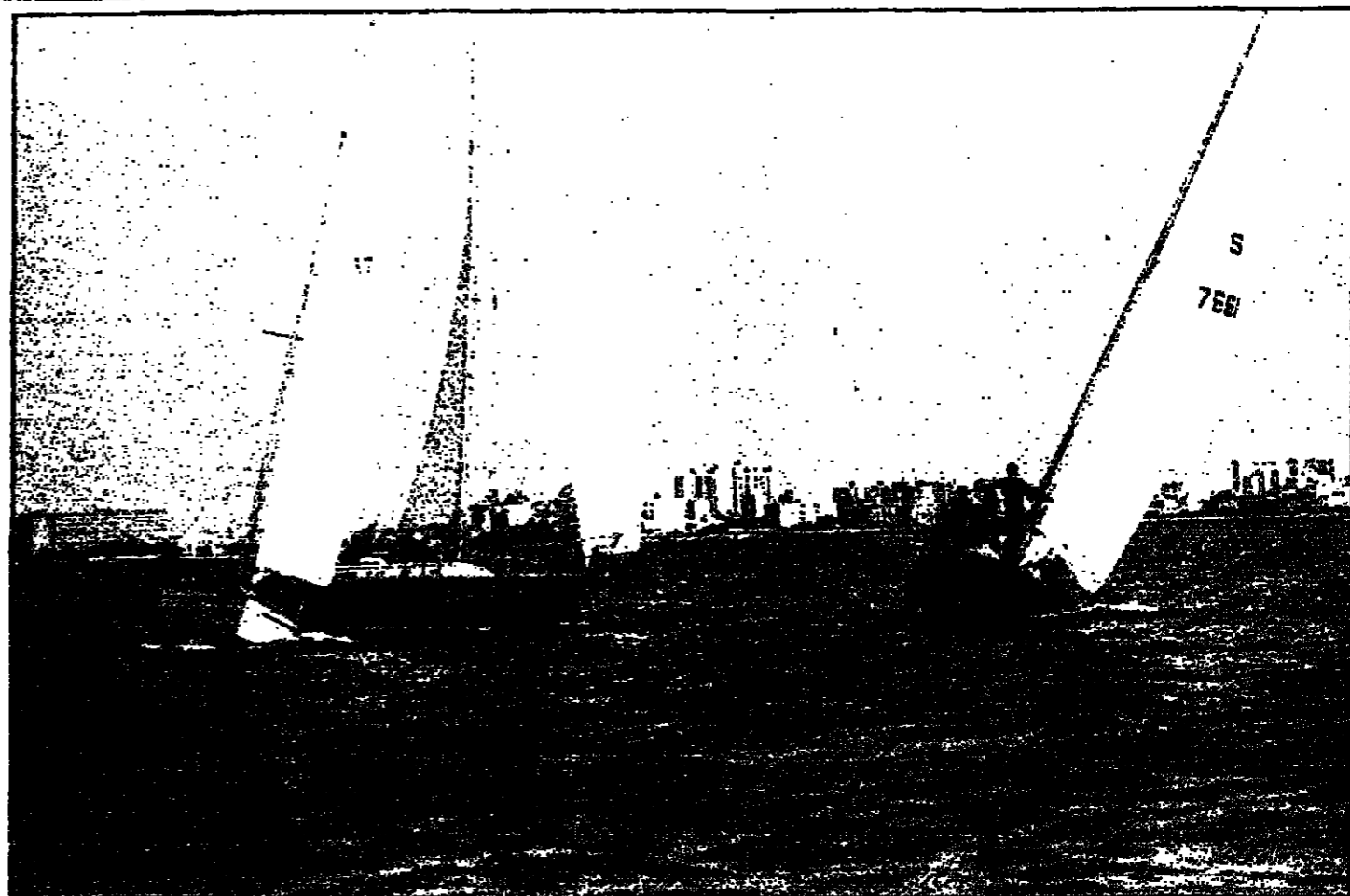
Only 10 seconds separated Gull Wing from Danat as they rounded ODM. The beat to Fish Cages saw Gull Wing open up a big lead as she really began to put her game together. The boat was beautifully balanced in contrast to Danat which appeared to suffer badly from an over powered problem.

Meanwhile Whispering continued to lead Red Viking and it was not until just before rounding ODM on the downwind sausage run that the position changed. However the next beat back to Fish Cages sorted things out again as Whispering once again managed to make the mark in one tack.

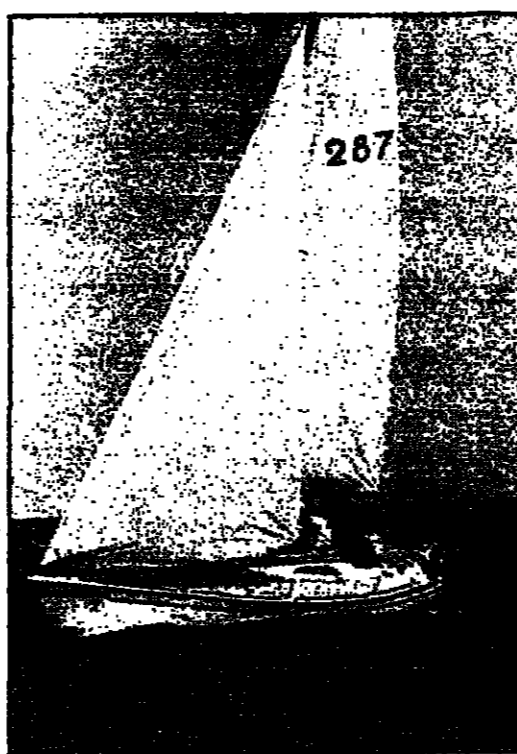
Gull Wing took line honours from Danat by a margin of 4 minutes and is to be complimented on her form after only 3 races. Shammal sailed an excellent race, especially given her green crew which was brought in for the day, and crossed the line in third place.

Whispering capped off a great day and narrowly beat Red Viking over the line to avenge the morning result. Handicap corrected results of SS10: 1 Shammal 2 Gull Wing 3 Whispering.

Progressive results of the Spring Series after SS10: 1 Red Viking 27.75 Shammal 31.253 Magic Flute 39.74 Good Company 57.5 Danat 78.6 Whispering 85.7 Gambit 110.



An action shot of the race.



Whispering (left) and Shammal in action during SS10.

Lotus start 1990 GP season with new car

CAMEL TEAM Lotus began their 1990 Grand Prix assault with the unveiling of their brand new Formula One challenger, the Camel Lotus type 102, to be driven by number one driver Derek Warwick.

The smaller, sleeker body of the Camel Lotus 102 showed the evolutionary progression over last year's successful chassis. Although the new Lamborghini V12 powerplant is longer than the previous Judd V8 engine, it is narrower and nestles neatly beneath the bodywork.

The Lamborghini should give us more horsepower with reliability and is mated to a totally new transverse gearbox," said Camel Team Lotus technical director Frank Dernie, who masterminded the development of the 102.

Despite the longer engine, the 102 has only increased in length by 5 cm over last year's 101, thanks to the shortening of the distance between the engine and the gearbox output.

The new engine being heavier and requiring more fuel, every component has been made as light as possible. "We have even saved half a kilo by making Derek a special light-weight helmet ourselves, using the manufacturer's moulds," said Frank Dernie.

"Now we have a V12 engine we are back in 'League One' of Grand Prix racing together with the top teams and we intend to capitalise," said number one driver Derek Warwick (35) who openly showed his enthusiasm for Camel Team Lotus' 1990 Grand Prix plans.

Twenty-five-year-old Martin Donnelly from Belfast, Northern Ireland, the team's new number two driver, also showed his delight on his first full sighting of the new car. "I can't tell you how much getting into Formula One means to me. The car looks fantastic and I hope it isn't too long before I am pushing Derek hard on the track."

For the first time Camel Team Lotus cars will be powered by V12 Lamborghini engines. "We are happy to benefit from the backing of Lamborghini engines," said team manager Rupert Manwaring. "You need the support from a major engine manufacturer, who will push on with the development of the engine. That is the only way to succeed."

"This is the second year that the engine will be used in Formula 1, so for us it is quite a good time to join forces with Lamborghini. For any new engine the first year is always difficult. They made a lot of progress during the course of last year."

"Everybody at Team Lotus is well-aware of the history that goes along with the name Lotus, and we're all determined to restore the Lotus name back to the winning ways," stated Manwaring.

"Our plan this year is to score a minimum of 40 championship points and we would like a win. The V12 engine should be better than all the V8's, so that should immediately put us in the front half of the grid. We don't have any doubt about our ability to produce a competitive car, and we hope to be always hustling for a position in the top six."

"We have a long-term plan," said technical director Frank Dernie. "Our objective is to build up the team to a position where it can win the World Championship. A capital expansion plan has been put together."

NSA ROUNDUP

Spurs defeat Supersonics to clinch playoff berth

SAN ANTONIO, March 28. (AP) Terry Cummings scored 31 points to help the San Antonio Spurs clinch a playoff berth last night, defeating the Seattle Supersonics 115-103.

Willie Anderson and David Robinson each had 22 points for the Spurs, who also broke their single-season attendance record.

Dale Ellis led the Supersonics with 36 points.

Knicks 119, Bulls 100

Patrick Ewing scored 41 points, including the first 3-point shot of his career, as the New York Knicks snapped a six-game losing streak with a 119-100 victory over the Washington Bullets. Ewing extended his club-record streak of games with 20 or more points to 28.

Gerald Wilkins added 19 points for the Knicks, who had lost four straight and seven of their last nine at home after starting the season 22-2 at Madison Square Garden.

Bernard King had 23 points for the Bulls, who have lost 10 of their last 14.

Pacers 101, Celtics 96

Vern Fleming sparked a 13-2 Indiana spurt to start the fourth quarter, then scored the game's final four points as the Pacers defeated Boston 101-96, snapping the Celtics five-game winning streak.

Keggie Miller scored 22 points to lead a balanced Indiana attack that had six players in double figures. Fleming finished with 17.

Kevin McHale led Boston with 32 points.

Ricky Pierce scored 20 of his 36 points in the second half and Jay Humphries had 26 as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated Phoenix 133-127, halting the Suns' bid to clinch a Western Conference playoff berth.

Kevin Johnson had a career-high 44 points for Phoenix.

Mavericks 118, Warriors 108

Sam Perkins scored 11 points in a four-minute span of the fourth quarter to break up a tight game and give Dallas its fifth straight victory, 118-108 over Golden State.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 25 points.

Results	
New York	119
Washington	100
Indiana	101
Boston	96
Milwaukee	133
Phoenix	127
Dallas	118
Golden State	108
San Antonio	115
Seattle	103
Portland	130
L.A. Lakers	111

Volvo tournament

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, March 18. (AP) Michael Chang, winner of last year's French Open, will play in the Volvo International tennis tournament in New Haven, the tournament has announced.

Chang joins Ivan Lendl and Mats Wilander at the \$1 million tournament, to be held at Yale University Aug. 13-19. It will be his third appearance at the Volvo, which moved to Connecticut this year after five years in Stratton, Vermont.

Garrison outlasts Zvereva

HOUSTON, Texas, March 28. (Reuters) Second seed Zina Garrison, playing before her hometown fans, fought off a tenacious challenge from Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union at the \$225,000 Houston Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Garrison, ranked sixth in the world, took the last four games after trailing 2-3 in the third set to advance to the second round with a 6-0-3-6 victory.

Zvereva was the Soviet Union's last hope in this outdoor clay court tournament after Lella Meskhi fell to fourth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria earlier yesterday.

Maleeva seized momentum after winning an exciting first set tiebreak 11-9 and sailed through the second set 6-1.

Garrison fell behind early after losing her serve in the third game of the opening set to the

13th-ranked Zvereva.

"She doesn't give you any pace," Garrison said. "Every time I've played her it has been a struggle."

Yesterday's match was no exception as Garrison pulled back from a 2-4 deficit to 4-5 before losing the first set.

The second seed turned the match in her favour in the middle set by taking the second and third games after falling behind 0-40.

"That's what did it for her," Zvereva said. "I was up 40-love and played a little too fast that game and the third. She felt a lot more confident with the fast game than I did."

But Garrison quickly fell behind 2-0 in the third set and had to battle in every game to claim victory.

"I really thought it was my match to win," Zvereva said. "I didn't feel very comfortable in

my head. I just couldn't make it somehow."

And in Chicago, former junior standout Nicolas Pietrangola of Venezuela downed American Joey Rive 6-2 6-3 in just 31 minutes to advance to the second round of the \$500,000 Chicago tennis tournament yesterday.

Leif Shiras needed two hours 41 minutes to beat fellow American qualifier Richard Schmid 7-6 6-7 6-4 and will have day off to ponder what will likely be a much shorter match against top seed Ivan Lendl tomorrow.

In their first-round play, the tournament's two-man Swedish contingent was wiped out.

American Dan Goldie rallied to eliminate Peter Lundgren 3-6 7-6 6-4, while John Ross of the US rebounded from a 1-4 first-set deficit to oust Niclas Kroon 6-4 6-4.

Green overcome Red in KPBL All-Star game

THE KPBL-Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League in co-operation with Arab Food Services Co. Pizza Italia recently held its All-Star game at the Kaifan High School Gym.

Served as the main course in a six-game menu of the ongoing KPBL 1st-Conference Championship Round, the capacity crowd saw all of their favourite players pit their talents against each other in this classic encounter. Held to give special tribute to the players who have shown more than one shining moment in the KPBL 'ourney.

The Green Shirts with its nucleus made up of EEI, Trico, Al Ghanim, KRP, and Nissan drillers made a repeat over the Red Shirts with a 142-137 win. They now lead this annual classic 2-0.

In the 1st quarter of play, things look well for the Red team being coached by KPBC meritor Ed De La Cruz, as the combinations of Castro, Pizarro, Abobo, Ortega, Lindimas, Marin and Navarro erected a 7-point margin at the end of the first 12 minutes of play 41-34. This, however, was short-lived, as the Green team erupted for 49 2nd quarter points compared to the Red teams measly 24 points output. Halftime score stood at 83-65 in favour of the Green-shirts.

In the second-half, the Green team played cautiously and contended itself with matching its opponents baskets. The Red team tried to make a run, but each though was thwarted by Donny Coaolt's charges. At the end of 48 minutes of play, it was a 5-point win by the Green team over the Red shirts.

Top scorers for the victorious Green team were Reyes 21, Tualdes 20, Jugo 18, Zalavurria 18, Menes 14, Garcia 14, Dingson 10 and Babierra 7.



The victorious Green team

The Red team was paced by Domingo 23, Ortega 19, De La Cruz 16, Castro 14, Perez 12, Abubo 11, Navarro 6 Mann 5.

Mat Reyes of the Green team (Trico) was named the Most Valuable Player of the game for his consistency all through the game. Both coaches were given plaques of recognition for their participation in this special event, sponsored by Pizza Italia under the auspices of Chawki E. Barakat the general manager. All players also received individual medals for their participation in the event. Bussam the asst manager and Mazem senior



The Red All-Star team.

supervisor both of whom are with Arab Food Services Co.-Pizza Italia were on hand to award the trophies & medals to the participants.

The Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League action continues with its championship round at the Kaifan High School Gym tomorrow, Friday, with a series of crucial & exciting games. The schedules are as follows: 2:00 pm Nissan Al-Babtain vs Kay & Associates, 3:30 pm Al Ghanim vs KRP, 5:00 pm KDD vs Overland, 6:30 pm KPBC vs KHC-Bayan, 8:00 pm EEI vs Trico.

Nissan Al-babtain, leading 1-0 in it best of three



The Red All-Star team.

series with KAI for the 9th place go for the clincher in tomorrow first game set at 2pm. Nissan is highly favoured to win but KAI is not out until its over as they've shown that they are capable of playing serious ball despite their depleted bench.

In the 2nd game, Al Ghanim and KRP, both sporting 0-1 cards in the Consolation Round, battle each other for an important win that could push them up the standings.

KDD goes up against Overland in the 3rd game hoping to prove that its Elimination Round win over OTC was no fluke after all. Overland however is not too keen on this KDD prerogative and they are expected to go all out and exploit their opponents depleted bench.

In the 4th game KPBC battles KHC-Bayan, as the former prepares itself for that all important winner take all match against EEI. KPBC is highly favoured to repeat over KHC-Bayan, however, Mr X-Ortega says otherwise and he promises to put on a good show for everyone.

In the final game of the day, Trico International tries to keep its Championship bid alive when it tackles title favourite EEI. Though losing to KPBC in last Friday's match, it has been proven that the Trico players are capable of playing serious ball, and it only they could iron out their internal strifes. EEI might be in for a big surprise.

Once again, KPBL fans will be treated to a bonus of sorts as Trico International Door to Door courtesy of Don Jayantha Kanannangara shall be providing bus service (Kuwait-Kaifan-Kuwait). Commuters are advised to visit the Trico office at the ground floor of Souk Al Watiya for the bus' locations.

Reyes: the All-Star MVP collects his award

Ed De La Cruz (left) receives his plaque from Bas-

Danny Coaolt: Green team coach receives his plaque

